

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

August 9, 2021

Dear Lynn Public Schools Community,

I am writing to update you on our planning for the [2021-22 school year](#). As a reminder, the Lynn Public Schools (LPS) will open the 2021-22 school year full-time, in person at all levels. Following the advice of the City's Health Director and other local medical authorities, I will recommend to the School Committee that we begin the school year with **universal mask wearing for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status** at a special meeting on August 19th. The recommendation will call for mask wearing until December 31st, at which time we will reassess our safety precautions.

On Friday, July 30th, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released a [set of recommendations](#) for all school districts. These recommendations focus on health and safety protocols and come in the form of suggestions, not mandates. School districts may make decisions based on local COVID-19 data and other circumstances. The city's Health Director and other local health authorities based their recommendation for LPS on the following key factors:

- The increase in positive COVID-19 cases involving the Delta variant
- Uncertainty around the impact of the Delta variant, particularly on young children
- The current [vaccination rates](#) among students age 12-19
- The inability to maintain physical distance with all students attending in person

Furthermore, the Center for Disease Control guidance now calls for mask wearing in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status, in substantial or high coronavirus transmission communities. At present, Essex County is a substantial coronavirus transmission community.

We are excited to welcome our beloved students back beginning September 7th and very much look forward to a fulfilling year together. The extent to which we stay together and in communication will only make that goal more possible. Toward that end, I have planned a **Virtual Town Hall for the entire LPS community on Monday, August 16th at 6pm**. At this online event, I will communicate specifics around our reopening planning. The link to the session will be sent on the morning of August 16th. This session is also an opportunity for you to share concerns and raise questions. I invite you to submit those in advance to LPSreopening-families@lynnschools.org. Doing so will allow us to make the presentation more useful for you.

Yours in partnership,
Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools