
SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RE-OPENING INFORMATION

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AUGUST 5TH 2021

AGENDA

Diagram of the different agencies intersecting

Vaccinated Vs. Unvaccinated

Brief summary DESE updated language

Summary of DESE's recommendations

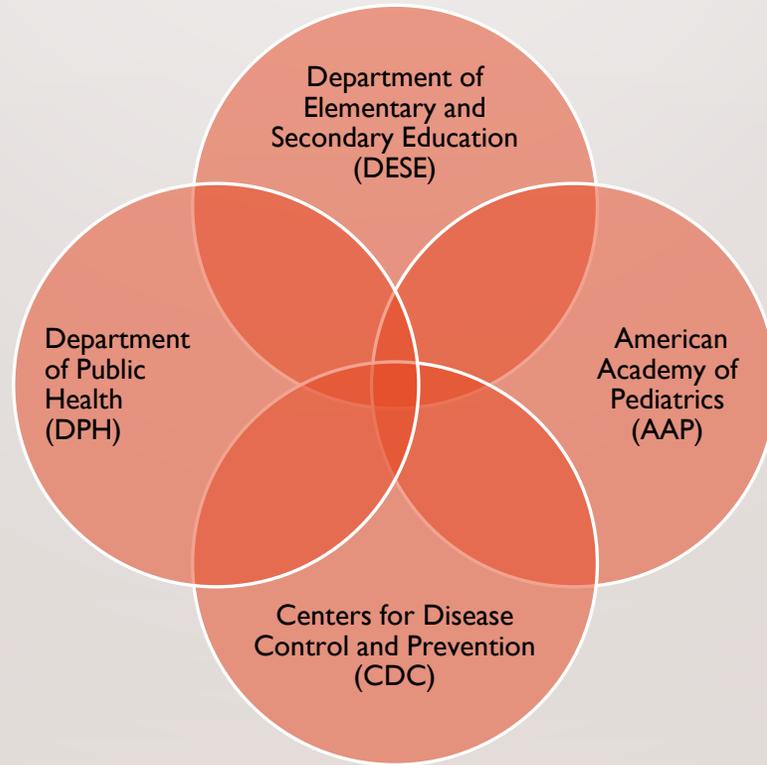
Superintendent's recommendations to re-open schools

Expectations for August/September—Conclusion

Questions/comments

INTERSECTIONS: GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Re-Opening Guidance



VACCINATED VS. UNVACCINATED

- Are staff, families, and students legally responsible for informing the schools whether their children are vaccinated or not?

Because of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), staff, students and families are not legally required to inform schools of their children's vaccination status. Individuals have the right to keep their vaccination status private or public, it is he/she/their choice.

SUMMARY OF DESE RECOMMENDATIONS



SUMMARY OF DESE'S RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS

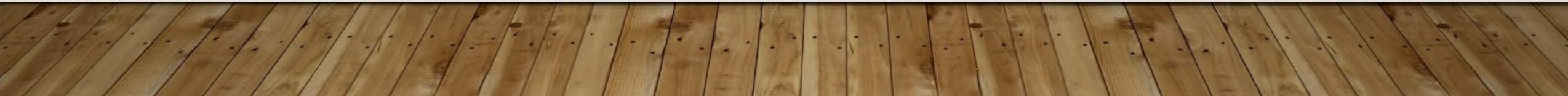
- DESE and DPH strongly recommend that all students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs. Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.
- DESE and DPH strongly recommend that unvaccinated staff in all grades, unvaccinated students in grades 7 and above, and unvaccinated visitors wear masks indoors.
- DESE and DPH recommend that schools allow vaccinated students and employees to remain unmasked.

SUMMARY CONTINUES

- Any individual at higher risk for severe disease from COVID or with a household member who is at high risk is encouraged to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.
- By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear masks on school buses at this time.
- All staff and students must wear masks while in school health offices. Additional guidance for school health professionals is forthcoming from DPH. Additional guidance is also expected from the legal department of DESE.
- Cleanings: In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 listexternal icon](#)) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

SUMMARY CONTINUES: RECESS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, EXTRACURRICULAR

- In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities).
- Particularly in areas of [substantial to high transmission](#) levels, people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- When physical education activities or recess are held indoors, it is particularly important for people who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks and maximize distance when possible.
- Students who are not fully vaccinated and participate in indoor sports and other higher-risk activities should continue to wear masks and keep physical distance as much as possible.



SUMMARY CONTINUES: FOOD SERVICE AND SCHOOL MEALS

- Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate distancing. Note: students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating.
- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.
- Improve ventilation in food preparation, service, and seating areas.



SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS FOR RE-OPENING



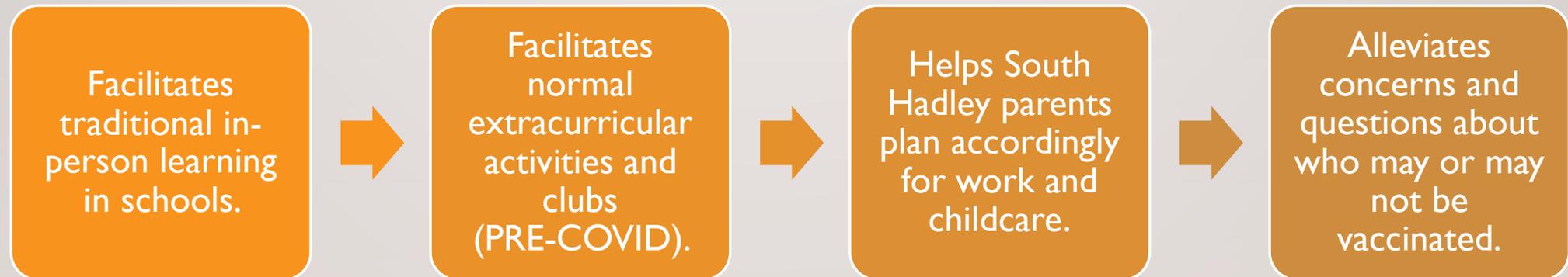
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MASK USE FOR SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- **Recommendation:** *Keep the current MASK mandate which was voted on in August of 2020. Thus, the expectation is that ALL students and staff regardless of vaccination status will wear masks.*

Rationale

- Wearing masks helps mitigate the spread of COVID and thus, maximizes continuous in-person learning.
 - Two and a half buildings or ½ of student population is eligible for the vaccination at this time. All staff members are eligible for the vaccination. **Again, per FERPA, we cannot require students or staff to show proof of vaccination.**
 - COVID vs. DELTA VARIANT is affecting the youth, is more transmissible and potentially more serious. Wearing a mask is essential.
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MAINTAINING THE MASK REQUIREMENT:



EXPECTATIONS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Building based re-opening teams will meet and discuss re-opening plans specific to each school building. Plans/expectations will be communicated to parents and the public.
 - The teams might implement creative solutions to keep kids and staff safe to possibly include having lunch outside, conducting some classes outdoors etc.
- District-wide re-opening team will meet and assess re-opening plans for the entire district.

CONCLUSION

- Be flexible and understanding that plans can change as a result of infection rates.
- Have conversations with your building principals for clarity and the most accurate information.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



REFERENCES

- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Retrieved from <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Retrieved from <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/>
- Dupere Law Offices (August 2021), “Masks in Schools”.