



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

January 1, 2022

Dear Lowell Public Schools students, families, staff and community partners:

I am hopeful this letter finds you and your family safe and well as we begin the new year. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday. **All schools are scheduled to follow their standard arrival and dismissal times on January 3.** However, with the current surge in COVID-19 cases across Lowell and the Commonwealth, I wanted to provide you with a brief update to ensure that our return to school in 2022 is a safe and joyous occasion for everyone.

Our staff has been working through the break to thoroughly clean and prepare classrooms for students. In addition, we are continuing to work throughout the weekend to provide an at-home COVID-19 test to all employees. Many teachers, administrators and support staff will be self-testing within 24 hours prior to the start of school to monitor any exposures that may have occurred during the break. Our most recent survey data continues to show a high vaccination rate among our employees, and we are hopeful that there has been limited exposure among our staff members. Any staff members who test positive with one of these at-home tests will follow the latest quarantine guidelines from the CDC and should then also schedule a follow-up PCR test. **We'll continue to monitor the cases and in the event we experience escalated quarantining requirements among staff that compromises our ability to safely run school in any way, we will notify you immediately.**

Likewise, as we work to keep our schools open for in-person learning, we ask that all families also take added precautions at home. If your child is experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19 or is known to have been in recent contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please keep your child home from school and follow the directions of your healthcare provider. In addition, all schools will be running COVID pool testing on Monday and Tuesday. If you have not already done so, we strongly encourage you to enroll your child in pool testing using the online form at <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=Lowell>. Please contact your school if you have trouble completing the online form. We also continue to recommend that every eligible member of our community get vaccinated and we will continue to keep you updated on future vaccine clinics scheduled at school sites.

Mandatory mask requirements remain in effect for all students, staff and visitors in all Lowell Public School buildings. Please ensure that your child has a properly fitting mask when she or he arrives to school on Monday.

Thank you for your partnership as we continue to work our way through this ongoing health crisis. Surges in COVID-19 appear to be seasonal, and we are hopeful that this latest winter surge will subside in the near future. If we continue to work together as we have since the onset of this pandemic, I am confident that we will be able to keep our entire school community safe in the new year. We look forward to seeing you on Monday and ushering in a safe and productive 2022 in Lowell Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel D. Boyd
Superintendent of Schools