

# Schools Update Town Hall

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Superintendent Mary Skipper

January 26, 2021



# Language Interpretation

**Para escuchar en español, siga estas instrucciones:**

1. En los controles de su reunión / seminario web, haga clic en "Interpretación".
2. Haga clic en "español".
3. (Opcional) Para escuchar solo en español, haga clic en "Silenciar audio original".



**Para ouvir em português, siga estas instruções:**

1. Na sua tabela de controle da reunião ou webinar, clique em "Interpretation".
2. Clique em "Portuguese".
3. (Opcional) Para ouvir apenas em português, clique em "Mute Original Audio" (Silenciar áudio original).

**Si w vle tande an kreyòl Ayisyen swi v enstriksyon sa yo:**

1. Nan kontwòl yo klike sou 'interpretation'.
2. Klike sou 'Haitian Creole' men mou n wap tande a ap pale kreyòl.
3. Ou kapab mete odio original sa sou 'mute original audio' pou w kapab tande Kreyòl Ayisyen sèlman.

# Presenters & Panelists for Q&A

Mayor Joe Curtatone

Superintendent Mary Skipper

**Omar Boukili** | Incident Commander, City Covid-19 Incident Command System

**Doug Kress** | Director of Health and Human Services | City of Somerville

**Rich Raiche** | Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management

**Kristen Stelljes** | SomerStat Director | City of Somerville

**Jeff Curley** | Chief of Staff | SPS

**Andre Green** | School Committee Chair | SPS

**Chad Mazza** | Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment | SPS

**Sarah Davila** | District Administrator of Programs: Multilingual Learner Education/Family and Community Partnerships | SPS

**Liz Doncaster** | Director of Student Services | SPS

**Susana Hernandez Morgan** | Chief Communications and Development Officer | SPS

**Lisa Kuh** | Early Education Director | SPS

**Rosanna Paribello** | Community Schools Afterschool Program Director | SPS

**Christine Trevisone** | Special Education Director | SPS



# Planning for a Safe, Sustainable Reopening

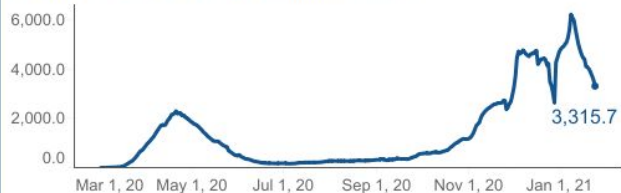


# Planning for a Safe and Sustainable Reopening

- Safety remains the top priority for reopening schools and creating a stable learning environment.
- We've moved cautiously, with a focus on a comprehensive safety plan that will help prevent transmission within our schools.
- We also understand the challenges facing our families and students, and have been striving to advance the reopening without unnecessary delay.
- The complexity of the virus and its impact, as well as the experiences of other school districts who have had to make multiple shifts from in-person to remote, validate our thorough approach.
- Tonight, we will provide updates on mitigation efforts for our school buildings, our COVID-19 testing plan, and an updated projected timetable for phased in-person learning.

## Cases

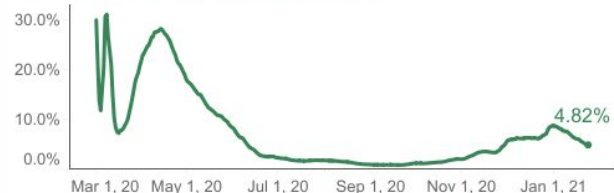
7-day average of COVID-19 confirmed cases



The lowest observed value was 156.7 on 7/4/2020.

## Testing

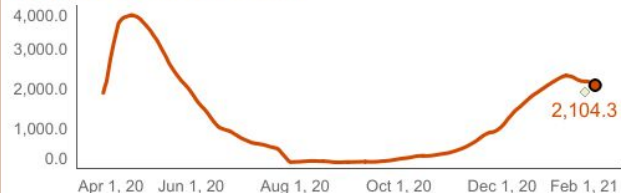
7-day weighted average percent positivity



The lowest observed value was 0.8% on 9/21/2020.

## Hospitalizations

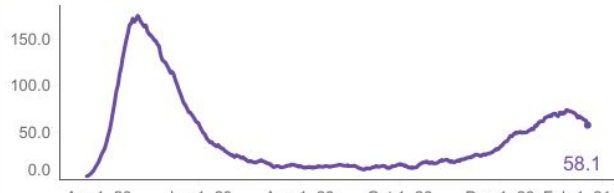
7-day average of hospitalizations



The lowest observed value was 155.3 on 8/26/2020.

## Deaths

7-day average of confirmed deaths



The lowest observed value was 3.7 on 9/9/2020.

For details on the definitions of each indicator please see the corresponding tab for that indicator. All data included in this dashboard are preliminary and subject to change. Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics; Created by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services.

# Current COVID-19 Landscape: State and Somerville

	Positive Cases	Last 10 Days	Total Fatalities
10/29/20	1,539	158	45
1/26/21	4,395	213	58

## Internal Factors

Building &  
Ventilation  
Achieve “Low  
Risk” Score

Start  
Phased  
Re-Opening

In-Person  
6-foot  
Distancing  
and Other  
Safety  
Measures In  
Place

COVID-19  
Testing,  
Contact  
Tracing, Safety  
Protocols  
Operational

## External Factors

- Community Transmission Rates
- Positive percentage in school
- Evolving science and research
- Availability of material and human resources

# School Opening Advisory Group



Membership

Purpose

Role



# Purpose of the School Opening Advisory Group

- ▶ The Advisory Group meets weekly and makes recommendations based on public health data and the latest scientific research. Other groups within the SPS community also provide input.
- ▶ The Advisory Group is composed of individuals with specific expertise and/or knowledge of various aspects of school reopening safety plans.
- ▶ All of the data available to the Advisory Group will be publicly available on the SPS COVID dashboard at [somerville.k12.ma.us/SPSCovidDashboard](https://somer ville.k12.ma.us/SPSCovidDashboard).

# Advisory Group Members

## Somerville Public Schools

- Jeff Curley, Chief of Staff
- Obed Morales, ESCS Principal
- Kenya Avant, Data Coordinator

## COVID Incident Command System

- Omar Boukili, ICS Commander
- Tim Snyder, ICS Deputy Commander
- Doug Kress, HHS Director
- Amy Bantham, Contact Tracing & Testing Lead
- Kristen Stelljes, Planning Chief\*
- Brianna Noonan, Situation Lead\*

## School Committee

- Sarah Phillips, Ward 3

## Experts

- Gabrielle Jacquet- emergency physician with expertise in viral outbreaks
- Daniele Lantagne- environmental engineer and infectious disease expert

*\*Non-deliberating members*

# How to decide when to open and when to close

- ▶ Recommendations about opening the schools and closing individual schools or the full district will be made by the School Opening Advisory Group to the Mayor and Superintendent.
- ▶ Decisions about moving classrooms or cohorts within a school to remote learning will be made immediately by SPS and City staff.
- ▶ Factors that the School Opening Advisory Group will be considering in making their recommendation include the data from the indicators available on the public SPS dashboard, as well as the latest research and guidance from WHO and the CDC.



# Other Groups Providing Input on Reopening Plan

- ▶ SPS Testing Operations Team meets weekly, focused on developing and implementing COVID-19 screen testing process and schedule for SPS students and staff
- ▶ Somerville Reopening Task Force meets weekly to ensure that all areas of reopening planning efforts are moving forward
- ▶ SPS bargaining team continuing to meet at least weekly with Somerville Educators Union, working to finalize reopening plan
- ▶ SPS has reached agreements with all of the remaining bargaining units
- ▶ School Reopening Committees
- ▶ School Committee public hearings and expert testimony

# Building Work Update



Scope of work

Building completion update

Work schedule risk factors

Building schedule update

# Building improvements scope of work

- ▶ Minimum threshold for occupancy
  - Filtration – increase to MERV-13
  - Ventilation – retro-commission air handling equipment, handle additional pressure from filters
  - CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring – Ongoing quality control for ventilation
- ▶ Additional work while buildings are occupied
  - Disinfection – UV germicidal irradiation
  - Humidification – lower transmission rates
- ▶ Consistent with Harvard School of Public Health for full-time, in-person education
  - Short-duration, low-density meetings on case by case basis

# Building completion update

- ▷ All filters delivered, installed at Group 1 & 2, and in process for Group 3
- ▷ Retro-commissioning in process at Group 1, 2, JFK & Winter Hill
  - ▷ Coordinating with maintenance contractor
  - ▷ Reviewing technical details at East
- ▷ Portable units in process
- ▷ CO<sub>2</sub> monitors in process
- ▷ Wellness room exhaust in process

# Construction schedule risk factors

- ▶ **Supply chain**
  - ▶ Constantly evolves
  - ▶ Actively managing
- ▶ **Labor force**
  - ▶ General availability
  - ▶ COVID-19 impacts
- ▶ **Schedule estimates**
  - ▶ Accuracy of projections
  - ▶ Quality of details
- ▶ **Design omissions**
  - ▶ Adds work
  - ▶ Higher risk given lack of detailed design
- ▶ **Unforeseen conditions**
  - ▶ Changes/Adds work
  - ▶ Higher risk given lack of detailed design
- ▶ **Complexity/Quantity of work**



# Construction schedule

- Projected construction completion dates, student occupancy will follow

			Ventilation & Filtration Improvements																				
Projected Completion			D	January					February				March					April				May	
Optimistic	Pessimistic		28	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	
New High School	1-Feb-21	15-Mar-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
Capuano School	8-Feb-21	22-Mar-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
East Somerville	15-Feb-21	29-Mar-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
High School Mods	8-Feb-21	22-Mar-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
Argenziano School	15-Feb-21	29-Mar-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
West Somerville	15-Feb-21	29-Mar-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
Kennedy School	8-Mar-21	19-Apr-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
Healey School	22-Mar-21	3-May-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Green	Dark Green	
Winter Hill	3-May-21	23-Aug-21	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Orange	Orange

Note: **Red** are definite work dates. **Orange** are likely work dates generated by known risk occurrence. **Light Green** are potential dates for occupancy, barring additional difficulties. **Dark Green** are more confident dates for occupancy, barring extraordinary risk occurrence. Humidification & UV disinfection improvements may continue during occupancy. As of **25 Jan 2021**, Significant risk has been identified/retired for many buildings. Most unknowns remain at Healey, WHCS.



# Transition to In-person

Priority phase-in populations

Current projected phase-in schedule

Afterschool indoor/outdoor pilots

# Hybrid In-Person Phases

## Priority Populations:

- Phase 2A - **(4 days a week)** SPED Highest Needs Programs (AIM, SHIP, SKIP, Lifeskills lower grades, and Healey Multigraded lower grades 1-2)
- Phase 2B multiple stages - **(4 days a week)** Remaining SPED High Needs (ECIP, Life Skills 3-12, Transition, Multi-graded (3-8), SEEK, ELL Levels 1 & 2 SEI)
- **(Hybrid)** NW/FC, 9-12th gr RR and ASD Learning Lab
- **(Hybrid)** CTE Seniors, SHS Redirect Learning Lab
- **(Hybrid)** Phase 3A - Pre-K and K

Phase	Population
2A	SPED Highest Need Programs
2B	Remaining SPED High Needs, NW/FC, and ELL Levels 1 & 2
	CTE Seniors
3A	PreK-K
3B & 4A	Grades 1-3
	CTE Juniors
4A & 4B	Grades 4-6

We will also explore the use of learning labs to support other high-need populations including students who are DCF involved, homeless, students who are ELL at levels 3 & 4, and students who need Special Education resource room supports.

# Voluntary Limited Indoor Programming for Students with Highest Special Education Needs

- Continuing voluntary limited in-person support, moving from outdoor tented areas to indoor spaces starting February 1 at students' home schools: Kennedy, Capuano, and Winter Hill
- 2 hour blocks
- Baseline and ongoing Covid testing for students and staff
- Mandated masks for both staff and students
- Deemed safe to move indoors due to limited number of students and staff and limited hours
- Available to approximately 18 highest needs self contained classrooms
- Staff will self identify who feels comfortable returning for this opportunity and then identify students, days, and times

# Projected Building Assignments

Building	Programs / Grades
Argenziano	Argenziano PK-8, Argenziano SEI 1, Healey SEI 1 grades K-4
Capuano	AIM PK-K, ECIP, Capuano PK-K
East Somerville	East Somerville K-8, Unidos, Special Ed Multi-graded East (grades 5-8)
High School Mods	Brown K-5
Kennedy	SEEK, Kennedy PK-8
Somerville High School	<p><b>Special Ed:</b> AIM gr 1-8 WHCIS, <b>Life Skills</b> gr. K-8 Kennedy, <b>SKIP</b> Kennedy, <b>Multi-graded</b> Healey (grades 1-8), <b>SHS RR</b> and <b>ASD Learning Labs</b> (grades 9-12)</p> <p><b>ELL:</b> SEI 1 grades 5 - 8 (WHCIS), <b>Multi-lingual</b> Learning Centers, <b>SHS ESL 1</b></p> <p><b>Gen Ed:</b> WCHIS PK-8, Healey PK-3</p> <p><b>Next Wave/Full Circle</b> grades 6-12</p> <p><b>SHS:</b> CTE Juniors and Seniors, <b>Redirect</b> Learning Lab, <b>Somerville Child Care Center, House Learning Labs</b></p>
West Somerville	West Somerville PK-8
Healey* and Winter Hill	<p>*Healey may be able to return Gen Ed grades 4-8</p> <p>WHCIS will not return to WHCIS this academic year</p>

# Resuming In-Person Education Plan

## During January/February:

- We will continue negotiations with SEU on conditions for safely reopening.
- We will continue working with DPW to move furniture, specialized items, PPE, and teacher materials across buildings.
- We will provide the schedule for teachers moving classrooms to pack belongings and unpack in new location; for those teachers remaining in the same classroom there will be time provided for set up.
- We will contact families regarding intent to return for Phases 2a, 2b and 3a
- We will be working with unions and staff to determine accommodations, leaves, and remote assignments.
- We will be providing dates for Baseline testing of students and staff prior to returning to in-person and according to a return schedule projected to start in March.
  - Students in highest needs SPED programs (AIM, SHIP, SKIP, Life Skills lower grades, Healey multigraded lower grades) returning first
- CTE Seniors and Phase 3a (PK, K) would follow

# Safe Indoor/Outdoor Afterschool (Community Schools)

## SAFETY

- Deemed safe given limited time inside (1-2 hours) and limited number of students indoors at one time
- Takes place in large, open indoor spaces
- Students & staff required to follow all other health and safety protocols and to test weekly for Covid-19
- Afterschool staff have been working directly with students without known exposure or transmission since July, have expressed support for pilot, and have been participating in weekly Covid testing

## EXPANSION PLANS

- Currently at Argenziano, Capuano and ESCS; Winter Hill starts this week; Healey and Kennedy expected next week and then others
- Plan to grow to more schools as testing capacity expands; hope to continue in parallel with in-person return
- Working with DPW to coordinate setup of outdoor tents in mid-March if weather permits
- Exploring possibility of expanding to 4 days/week for PK/K, but return of students for in-person hybrid learning will impact capacity

# Community Schools Afterschool Pilot Program Overview

Afterschool Program Location	Baseline Test Date	Start Date	Approx # of Students
Argenziano	Dec 30, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	50
Capuano	Jan 12, 2021	Jan 14, 2021	19
East Somerville	Jan 18, 2021	Jan 21, 2021	31
Winter Hill	Jan 25, 2021	Jan 28, 2021	24
Healey	Feb 1, 2021	Feb 4, 2021	34
Kennedy	Feb 1, 2021	Feb 4, 2021	50
West Somerville	Feb 8, 2021	Feb 11, 2021	30
Brown	TBD	Mid-Feb	40





# What will school look like?



Remote Learning Management System (LMS)

Hybrid learning model

Daily check

Daily schedule

What happens if student feels ill?

# Current Remote LMS Student Enrollment by Grade

Grade Level	Students Enrolled
K	4
1	9
2	4
3	5
4	2
5	4
7	2
8	1

- 31 K-8 students enrolled in LMS
- No Grades 9-12 students enrolled in LMS
- 90% of enrolled students are currently passing with an average of 80% or above, while 10% are currently at risk with an average below 80%
- At risk students receive more frequent check ins and monitoring
- Student progress monitoring is completed through the FLVS Administrator App, where work is monitored and submitted assignments are graded and submitted to the student's grade book

# PK-8 Hybrid Learning Model

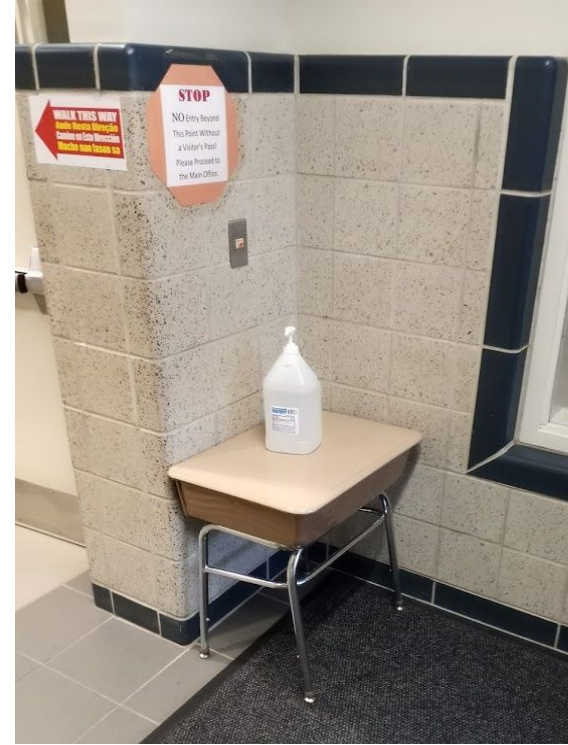
- The PK-8 student population will be divided into two cohorts: Cohort A and Cohort B.
  - Classes within each cohort will include 10-12 students.
  - Allows for reduction in the number of students physically in a building at any given time to facilitate 6-foot distancing
- Students will rotate between a two day in-person and three day remote schedule.
  - Students in Cohort A would receive full-day in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday and engage in synchronous and asynchronous remote learning Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
  - Students in Cohort B would engage in synchronous and asynchronous remote learning Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and receive full-day in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday.
- All students learn remotely (both synchronous and asynchronous) on Wednesdays.

# PK-8 Hybrid Learning Model

- Every Wednesday, PreK-8 students will be engaged in remote learning. Students will participate in both synchronous and asynchronous learning on Wednesdays. Synchronous learning can include a combination of full group learning, small group/ individualized learning and counseling. Asynchronous learning can include online work, small group work, or other activities assigned to be completed independently.
  - Wednesdays will also provide educators with opportunities to engage in common planning, develop weekly lesson plans, and communicate with families.
- Students whose families choose to remain remote upon in-person return will continue to be taught by a subgroup of SPS teachers - grade and content appropriate. The process for identifying this remote only staff will be worked on collaboratively with the Somerville Educators Union (SEU).
- We will try to keep the majority of students with their teacher, but there will be cases for which that does not work (e.g. a teachers takes a leave and a students requests in person; a student remains remote while the teacher teaches in person)
- Most high school students will likely remain remote, with a few exceptions (CTE seniors and juniors, students with high special education needs, students who are English learners at levels 1 and 2)

# School Day Schedule

- Drop-off & Pickup
- Indoor traffic flow
- Hand-washing / Sanitizing Stations
- Breakfast & Lunch
- Recess (with face masks)
- Mask breaks
- A/B Cohorts
- Specialists
- Weekly Covid Testing





# Testing

Daily Health Check

Flu Vaccine & COVID-19 Testing

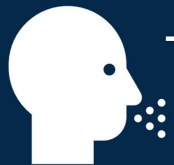
Benefits of COVID-19 Testing

Baseline Testing

SPS Screening Testing at a Glance

Testing Process

SPS Close Contact Protocol



To keep classrooms open,  
keep COVID at home.

Each day before your student attends a school event, is dropped off at school, or boards public transit, screen for COVID-19:

- Fever (100.0° F or greater)
  - Chills or shaking chills
- New cough (not due to other known cause)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unexplained fatigue (with other symptoms)
  - Muscle or body aches
- Headache (with other symptoms)
  - New loss of taste or smell
    - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Have one?  
You're done.



Stay home.  
Call nurse.



Para mantener  
las aulas abiertas,  
mantenga COVID en casa.

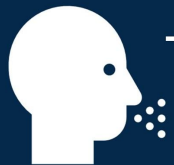
Cada día antes de que su estudiante asista a un evento escolar, venga a la escuela, o se suba a un bus escolar o transporte público, revise si tiene COVID-19:

- Fiebre (100.0F o mayor)
    - Escalofríos o escalofríos con temblores
- Tos reciente (que no sea por alguna causa conocida)
  - Corto de aliento o dificultad para respirar
  - Fatiga sin explicación (con otros síntomas)
    - Dolor muscular o corporal
    - Dolor de cabeza (con otros síntomas)
  - Perdida reciente del olfato o del gusto
    - Dolor de garganta
    - Congestión o moqueo
  - Nausea, vómitos, o diarrea

Tiene alguno?  
No puede  
continuar.



Quédese en  
casa. Llame a  
la enfermera.



To keep classrooms open,  
keep COVID at home.

Each day before your student attends a school event, is dropped off at school, or boards public transit, screen for COVID-19:

- Fever (100.0° F or greater)
  - Chills or shaking chills
- New cough (not due to other known cause)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unexplained fatigue (with other symptoms)
  - Muscle or body aches
- Headache (with other symptoms)
  - New loss of taste or smell
    - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Have one?  
You're done.



Stay home.  
Call nurse.



Para manter as salas  
de aula abertas, mantenha  
o COVID em casa.

Todos os dias antes do seu aluno comparecer a um evento escolar, ser deixado na escola ou entrar em um ônibus ou transporte público, examine para COVID-19:

- . Febre (100,0F ou superior)
  - . Calafrios ou tremors
- . Tosse recente (não devido a outra causa conhecida)
  - . Falta de ar ou dificuldade para respirar
- . Fadiga inexplicável (com outros sintomas)
  - . Dores musculares ou corporais
- . Dor de cabeça (com outros sintomas)
  - . Perda recente do paladar e olfato
    - . Dor de garganta
  - . Congestão nasal ou coriza
- . Náusea, vômito ou diarreia

Tem algum sintoma?  
Você não pode  
continuar.



Fique em Casa.  
Ligue para a  
enfermeira.



## My student shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school. Now what?

1



Students with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent to the school nurse for a health evaluation

2



The nurse will determine whether your student needs to be sent home to isolate, or may return to class

3



If your student shows signs of having COVID-19, the school nurse will call you, detail symptoms, and request that the student be picked up from school

4



Please plan to pick up your student within 30 minutes of being contacted by the school nurse

5



Call your child's primary care physician and isolate at home except to seek medical attention

6



Get your child tested for COVID-19 and report results to school nurse

# Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 Testing

Barring an approved medical exemption, COVID-19 baseline and routine screen testing will be required for all students and staff returning to in-person instruction. Although no longer required by the state, obtaining the seasonal flu vaccine is strongly recommended.

## Seasonal Flu Vaccine

- Strongly recommended before returning to in-person education
- City hosting free flu vaccine clinics; vaccines still available
- Or contact your medical provider
- Or visit local pharmacy
- State recently relaxed its mandate

## Routine COVID-19 Testing

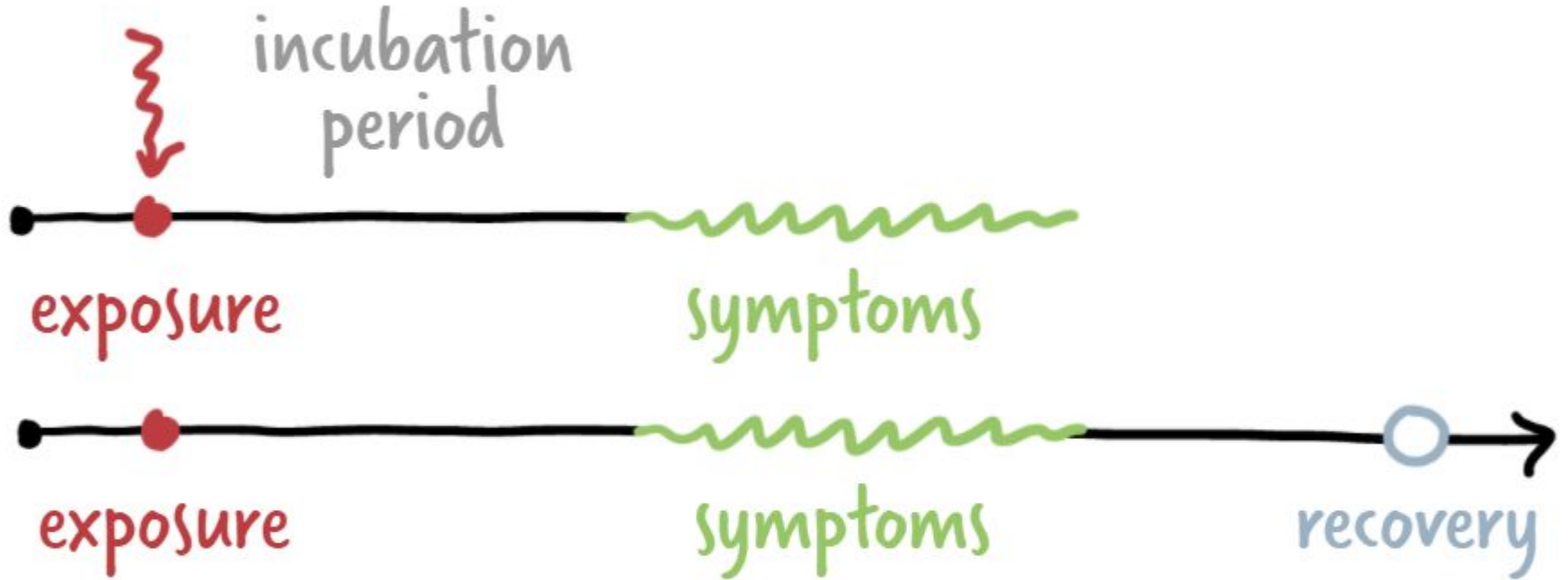
- Baseline and routine testing
- Protocol will adapt to school building reopening plan to provide students, staff, and close contacts with readily accessible COVID-19 testing on a routine basis.
- Successful piloting with staff and students



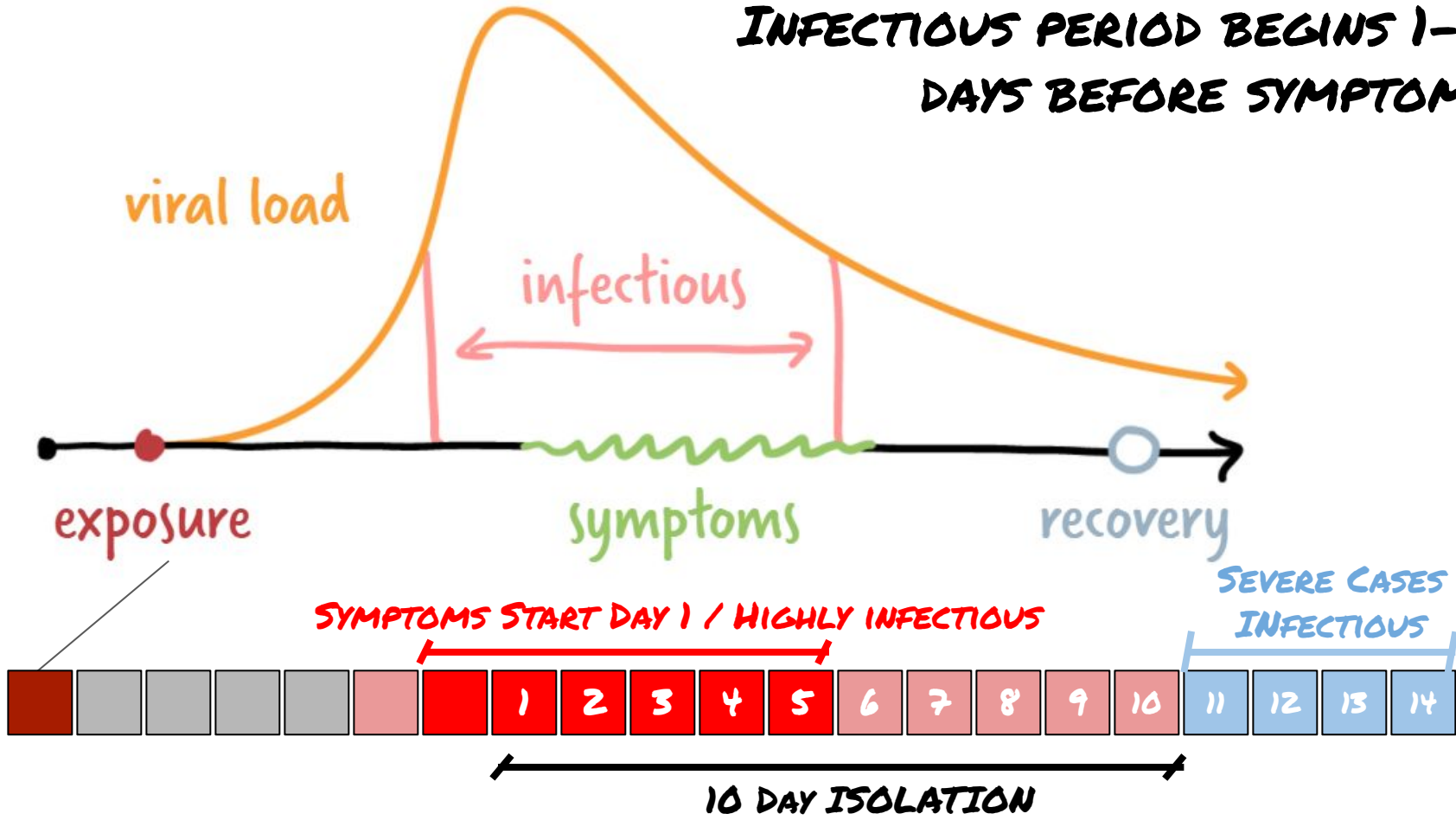
# Benefits of routine COVID-19 testing in school

- Identify COVID-positive individuals who are asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic to prevent further spread in school and community
- Rule out COVID-19 for individuals who present COVID-19-like symptoms, allowing earlier return to school
- Baseline and frequent testing helps to evaluate the effectiveness of 6-foot distancing protocols and inform school decisions moving forward

**COVID-19 PROGRESSION:  
INCUBATION PERIOD AVG. 4-5 DAYS**

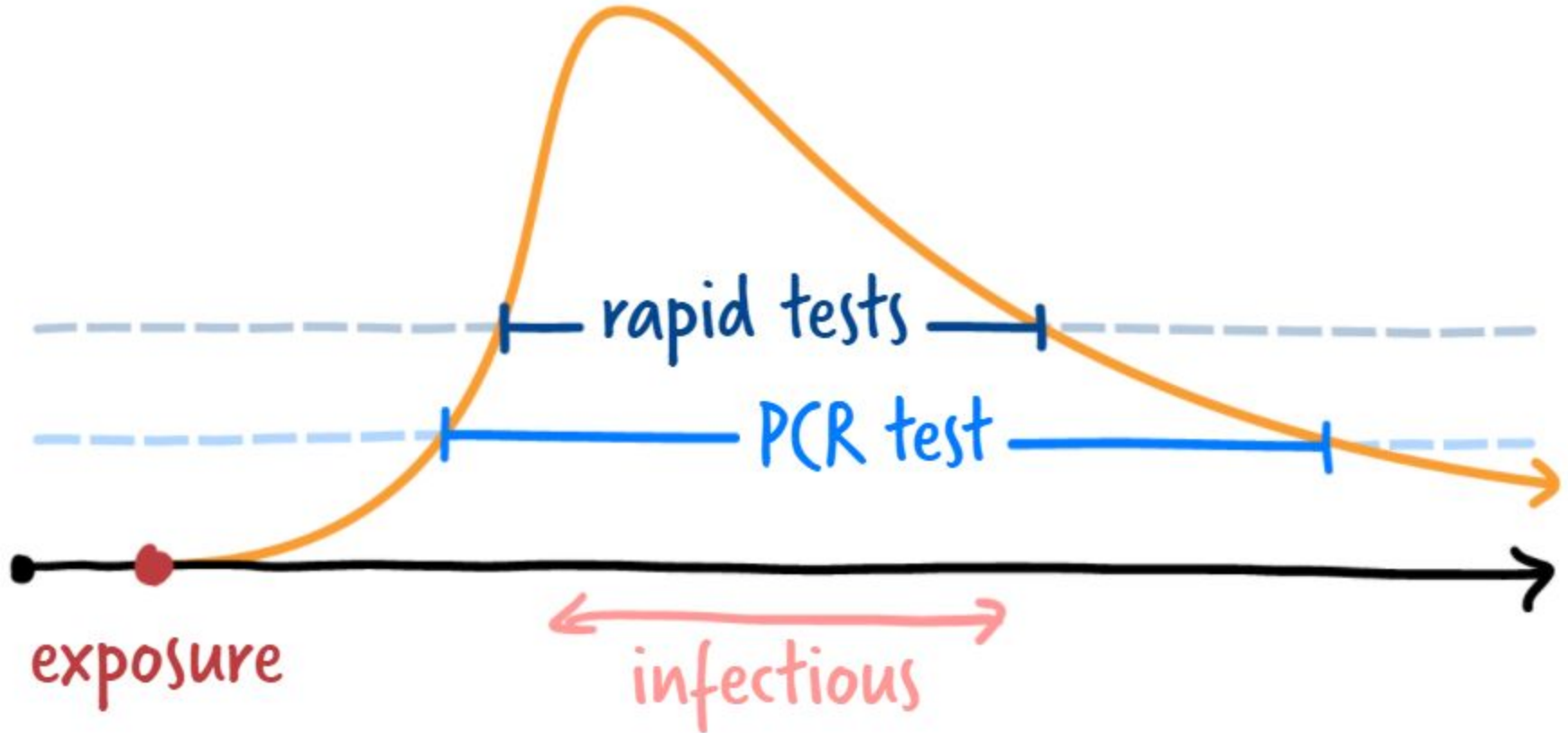


**INFECTIOUS PERIOD BEGINS 1-2  
DAYS BEFORE SYMPTOMS**



Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/02/science/charting-a-coronavirus-infection.html>

# SCREENING TESTS CAN DETECT VIRUS BEFORE SYMPTOMATIC PERIOD



# SPS Screening Testing at a Glance

- First started testing staff on Dec 9, 2020
- Expanded testing to 4 locations
- Six weekly testing events and growing
- Tested 448 individuals (~80 students)
- Administered over 1770 tests

**16**  
**Positive Cases**

**0.9%**  
**Test Positivity**  
**Rate**

# Baseline Testing for Students & Staff

- Before returning for any in-person activities, all staff and students must receive a baseline COVID-19 test
- Baselines have already been performed at several locations for staff, and also students involved in the Community Schools Afterschool Program
- The baseline tests are effective: POSITIVE individuals can be identified *before* they begin in-person activities
- Baseline tests will take place the week before in-person programming begins

## What is a baseline test?

Part of the assurance testing program, a baseline test is the first test provided to each new group of students and staff returning for in-person learning. The goals of baseline testing are to ensure that everyone returning is COVID-19 negative, and to capture all the registration information necessary prior to ongoing assurance testing.



# SPS COVID-19 Testing: Not Using “Brain Tickle”

## Anterior Nasal Swab

- Minimally invasive
- Anterior nostrils (lower part) gently swabbed in circular motion
- Students may be able to self-administer test, trained health staff will help students as needed
- Preferred testing method for students and staff

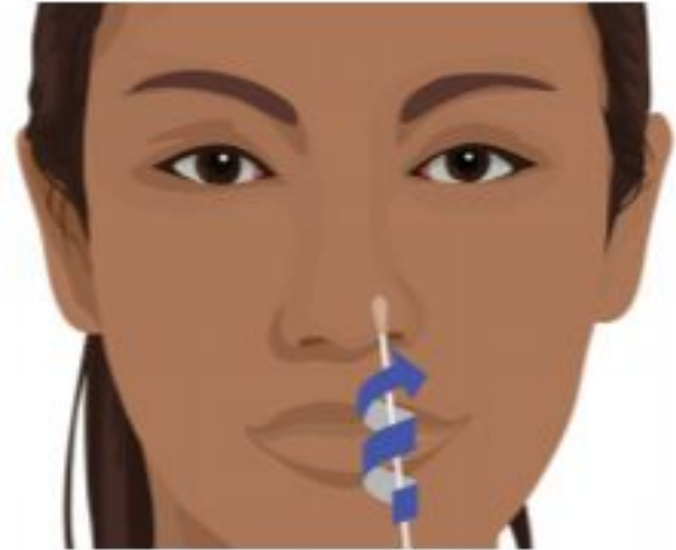


Image source CDC

## COVID Testing will be FREE

# What Is Pool Testing?

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for SARS-CoV-2
- Evaluating a group of samples together
  - Equally sensitive
  - Efficient
  - Reliable

## Pooled testing



As-needed  
confirmation of  
positive pools

Members of Pool 2 to be tested  
individually

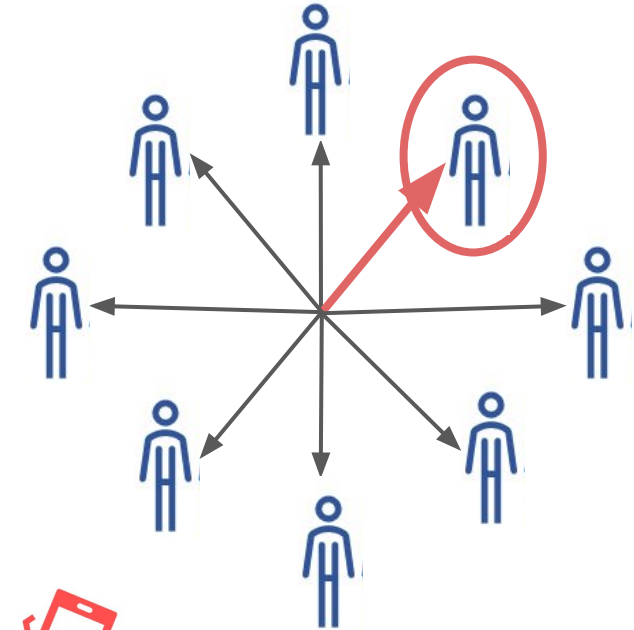
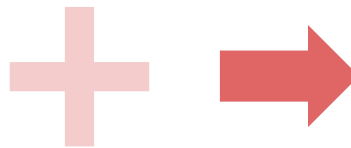
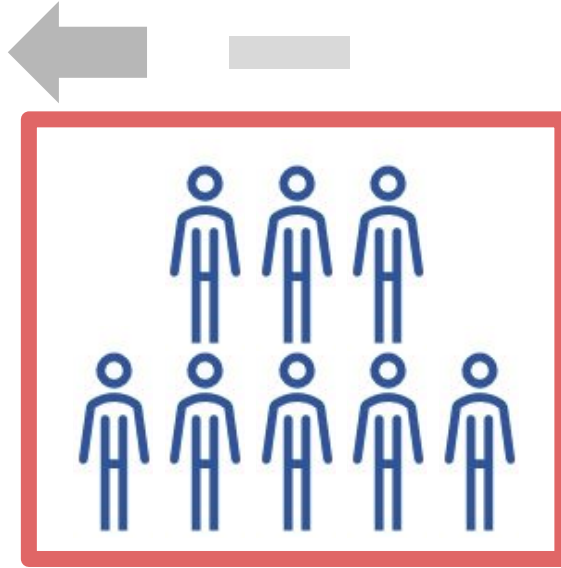


# How will Individual Test results be communicated?



# How will Pooled Test results be communicated?

NEGATIVE



**POSITIVE**

(All Individual Results  
Communicated)

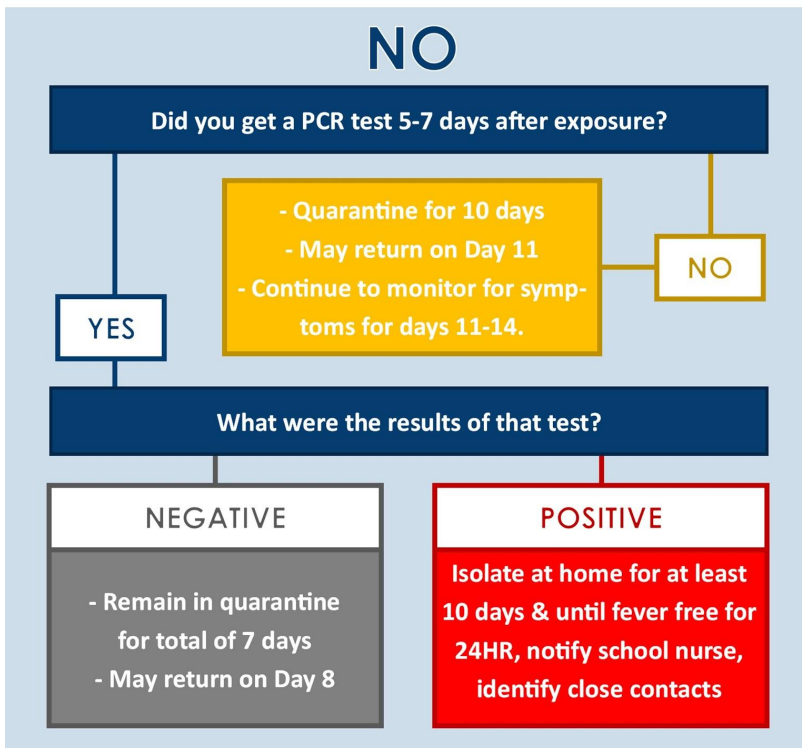


# SPS Close Contact Protocol

Quarantine guidance for close contacts  
of COVID-19 positive cases

Updated: December 17, 2020

Since being identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, have you developed any symptoms?



## YES

- Remain in quarantine for 14 days.
- Testing recommended, but individual will remain in quarantine for full period whether POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.
- May end quarantine 15 days after exposure if and not before no fever in last 24 hours, and improvement in symptoms.

# Questions?

Submit in the Q&A chat or  
comment on YouTube Live

# Thank you!



- Sign up for phone, text, and email alerts at [somerillema.gov/alerts](https://somerillema.gov/alerts)
- Current COVID-19 information: [somerillema.gov/covid19](https://somerillema.gov/covid19)
- Apply for help from or donate to the Somerville CARES Fund at [somerillema.gov/SomervilleCares](https://somerillema.gov/SomervilleCares)
- Community testing: 617-665-2928
- SPS Back to School Updates: [somerille.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020](https://somerille.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020)
- Free Flu Clinics [somerillema.gov/flu](https://somerillema.gov/flu)

