



June 25, 2020

Dear Renaissance families and staff,

Commissioner of Education, Jeff Riley released the first guidance on reopening schools in the fall. We will utilize this guidance to continue our planning for launching the start of the school year with the health and welfare of our students, families, and staff members in mind. As I have mentioned, this guidance is expected to be one of several updates throughout the summer. All guidance will be driven by the state of COVID.

Below are some highlights from the guidance:

- The state's Return-to-School Working Group has collaborated with public health officials from Mass General Brigham Health System and the American Academy of Pediatrics (MA chapter) and believe that children are 1) less likely to become infected with COVID-19, 2) have low incidences of transmitting the virus, 3) less likely to transmit the virus to others if infected.
- Physical distancing of 3 to 6 feet is appropriate for face to face interactions/classroom desk configurations.
- Scholars in grades 2 - 6 and staff members must wear a face mask/covering on buses and in school.
- Schools should ensure students are grouped into cohorts that learn, transition, and eat together. We should limit transitions of students & groups into other classes outside of their own.
- Handwashing and hygiene practices and expectations must be taught and adhered to by all members of the community.
- Students must be current on their vaccines before they start school.

What Renaissance is working on:

- We have 4 Reopening committees that started planning a month ago. We have received participation and input from staff, families, and our Board. These committees are working on different topics that include a full physical reopening, a hybrid/full remote model, services for Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners, and dismissal. We were pleased to see in the guidance that we are in line with the recommendations from the Commissioner. These committees will continue their work during the summer. We are expected to provide the state with our reopening plan in August.

- We are preparing to provide professional development workshops for staff in August on safety measures for reopening.
- We are preparing to provide health and safety information to families including visual screening at home for symptoms and health and hygiene practices.

It is our responsibility, as a school community, to provide a high quality education in the safest means we can. We will plan for reopening as an in-person and remote learning community (hybrid model) but understand this will be determined by where the city is with COVID. We will put into place all of the expectations by the state. We will collaborate with local and state leaders in education, public health, and community agencies to create the best conditions we can for our school. We understand these are uncertain times and want everyone to feel comfortable and safe.

To our families: A survey will be sent to families in the coming weeks to indicate if you would like for your child (ren) to receive in person instruction or remote instruction. **It is critical that all families complete the survey to assist us with our planning.**

You will receive updates from me during the summer so please check your email. Please take care, be safe, and enjoy the summer.

Sincerely,



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Head of School
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Resources:

- [MA DESE Fall Reopening Guidance](#) (Released on June 25, 2020)
- [Massachusetts Reopening 2020](#)
- [City of Boston Reopening 2020](#)