



WAYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we enter August, I am writing to provide a few updates about the reopening of school for the 2021-2022 school year:

Last Friday, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released initial Fall COVID Guidance for districts and schools. The guidance strongly recommends:

- Students in kindergarten through Grade 6 wear masks when indoors
- Unvaccinated students in grades 7-12 wear masks indoors
- Unvaccinated staff at all levels wear masks indoors
- All students and staff must wear masks when on school buses
- All students and staff must wear masks while in a school health office

Our newly established Superintendent Advisory Council (SAC) had its first meeting on Thursday, August 5th. The SAC is composed of health science and medical professionals, parents, teachers, administrators, and community stakeholders. Our mission is to ensure that we have a safe and healthy return to school this fall. There will be additional guidance from DESE on mask wearing and other COVID related matters throughout the remainder of the summer.

We will continue to review the weekly COVID 19 Municipality Vaccination rates in the 12-15 and 16-19 age groups in Wayland. In the coming weeks as the district reviews and considers the information released by the state (as well as new guidance expected in the coming weeks), one of the most vital data points will be the vaccination rate of our students.

I have submitted a request to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for us to host an on-site vaccination clinic at Wayland High School. This clinic would be open to all students, staff and community members. Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendations, parents/guardians who have not had their children vaccinated are strongly encouraged to consult with a medical professional about any concerns and/or have their children vaccinated.

I will provide weekly updates regarding Covid 19 related matters as we prepare for the reopening of school.

Sincerely,

Omar X. Easy

Omar X. Easy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools