



October 1, 2021

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

As we conclude our first full month of school, I would like to express my gratitude for your extraordinary support and commitment to our successful return. This has been a unique start to a school year in many ways, but we quickly realized just how much we missed the familiar feeling of being fully together to learn, teach and grow. Thank you all for being a part of that.

I would like to share the following important items and updates for the coming days and weeks:

- In my most recent communication, we shared an invitation to participate in COVID-19 symptomatic testing and safety checks to help prevent the spread of the virus in schools. Later this month, we will be adding “test and stay.” This statewide program allows students who are a close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school, as long as they show no symptoms. We will share additional details soon, but you can [provide consent online here now](#), or get more info and paper forms at [our website](#). Again, this program will allow asymptomatic close contacts to attend school instead of remaining home for the currently required seven-day quarantine, but participation will require the consent linked above.
- I am excited to host my next [virtual Superintendent Coffee Hours from October 19-21](#). Please [RSVP here](#) and join me!
- As a reminder, families received a request for consent to access their children’s MA Health information to allow the district to submit reimbursement for routine screenings, including vision and hearing as well as related services. This request was sent via Docusign. If you need another copy, please reach out to Venecia.Colon@lawrence.k12.ma.us.
- There is still time to take a [two-question survey](#) to help identify priorities for use of ESSER III funds, provided to support the safe reopening and operations of schools while meeting students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Your input will be a key piece of plans which benefit every LPS student.

As always, we encourage you to visit www.LawrencePublicSchools.org regularly for everything from back-to-school information, to vaccine clinic offerings, to videos, photos and updates on the many amazing things our students and staff are doing every day.

Thank you again,

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools