

7/14/20 Superintendent Update:

Good afternoon and I hope that you are all healthy and well. Please keep reminding your students of the critical need to practice safe social distancing, wear masks as much as possible and necessary and wash hands more often than not. These precautions will all be critical in giving us the best chance to return to full in-person learning as soon as possible. Another important reminder; please do not forget to fill out the **United States Census**. Your completion of the census allows for the maximum amount of funding for our town which directly impacts our school funding. It is quick and easy and takes only 10 minutes to complete.

The census can be easily accessed at: <https://my2020census.gov/>

Below are a few updates on our progress and planning as well as information related to a new family survey that will help guide our planning process. Please continue to visit this site often for our updates.

State Releases Series of Frequently Asked Frequently Asked Questions

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has issued a list of Frequently Asked Questions about planning a safe return to school. You can read the document by clicking <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html> and clicking the July 10, 2020 and click Fall Reopening Frequently Asked Questions. Please try to do this TODAY.

Family Survey: Make Your Voice Heard

As we develop plans for the fall, the Return to School Task Force needs your input. Please complete this **Family Survey** at <https://forms.gle/J9J5Yf7jMmo9BMjA7> to express your needs and preferences around safety, scheduling, remote learning, student engagement, technology, and family support and our students safe return to school. All answers are confidential — and the responses will be used to formulate a safe return to school.

The survey is open from now until Tuesday, **July 21th @ 5:00pm**. Click the above link to fill it out. We will share the results once we have reviewed all of the input.

Update on the Progress of the Return to School Task Force:

Please click the following link to view a power point presentation provided to our School Committee on the progress that we have made regarding the reopening of our schools.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pySswe-sxphw2n0BJCtvFJvO_BmuUfydYf6ix461YYQ/edit?usp=sharing

The information is not exhaustive of our efforts but does give you an overview of where we are at in the planning process.

A Message from Our School Nurses:

The health and safety of students and staff are our top priority for in-person learning in the fall. Prior to the start of school, we will be sending home information and protocols for students, staff and families to review on social distancing, proper mask-wearing, and hand washing.

Staying home if sick: Checking for symptoms each morning by families and caregivers is essential to preventing the spread of COVID-19. As part of the social agreement of re-opening, students and staff must stay home if they feel sick or have any symptoms associated with COVID-19. Families should not send their children to school if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. We will be providing a checklist of symptoms to help families prepare prior to the opening of school. The Winthrop Public Schools will have a mandatory policy in place regarding the dismissal students and staff with these symptoms and will provide that to you prior to the opening of school.

In the meantime, please start preparing your child for the return to school by having them wear a mask for more extended periods during the summer. Students in grade 2 and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Mask breaks will occur during the school day. Exceptions will be made due to medical conditions, disability, or other health and safety factors. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 are encouraged to wear a mask/face covering. More information on mask wearing for students in PreK-1 will be forthcoming. Please practice frequent handwashing at home to help students understand the importance of frequent washing which will also be discussed and practiced very often when students return to school.