

Schools Update Town Hall

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Superintendent Mary Skipper



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".
- (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".
- (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 'French' 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 & Advisors 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**

Jeff Curley | Chief of Staff | SPS

Amy Bantham | CEO/Founder | Move to Live More

Carrie Normand | School Committee Chair | Somerville Public Schools

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

Jessica Boston-Davis | Director for Equity and Excellence | SPS

Sarah Davila | Director of English Language Learner Programs and Family & Community Outreach | SPS

Liz Doncaster | Student Services Director | SPS

Susana Hernandez Morgan | Chief Communications and Development Officer | SPS

Lisa Kuh | Early Education Director | SPS

Sebastian LaGambina | Principal, Somerville High School

Christine Trevisone | Director of Special Education | SPS



Guidance for a Safe Halloween

- Residents <u>strongly urged</u> to forgo trick-or-treating in favor of lower-risk activities
 - Somerville Spook-tacular Stroll
 - Carve pumpkins outside with friends
- Halloween masks don't replace safety masks
- Visit the Somerville Arts Council for list of alternative safe activities



Planning for a Safe, Sustainable Reopening



Planning for a Safe and Sustainable Reopening

- Safety remains a top priority for reopening schools and creating a stable learning environment.
- We've moved cautiously, introducing extra safeguards into every Phase of reopening.
- The complexity of the virus and its impact, as well as the experiences of neighboring school districts validate our thorough and well-planned approach.
- Tonight, we will provide promised updates on mitigation efforts for our school buildings, our plans for systemwide COVID-19 testing, and a timetable for phased in-person learning.

The First Six Weeks

- Outstanding collaborative effort by teachers, students, staff, and families
- Attendance rates in the mid- to high-90% range; continuing efforts to keep students engaged
- Providing combination of live online instruction and connected independent assignments and activities, all aligned to grade-level standards





The First Six Weeks

- Outdoor enrichment programming by Community Schools and Somerville Parks & Recreation providing opportunities for safe social engagement for approximately 1,000 students
- Outdoor tented space also providing opportunities for some teachers to safely meet with small groups of students outdoors
- Continuing to provide Grab-and-Go breakfast and lunch meals, and other support services



Internal Factors

Building & Ventilation Achieve "Low Risk" Score

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

Start
Phased
Re-Opening
(Dec. 1)

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

Science based, Expert Reviewed

Regular Expert Advisors to Somerville

- Dr. Samuel Scarpino (Northeastern)
- Dr. Paul Biddinger (MGH)
- Dr. Rochelle Walensky (MGH)
- Dr. Mauricio Santillana (Harvard)
- Dr. Alessandro Vespignani (Northeastern)
- Dr. Louise Ivers (Harvard/MGH)
- Dr. Sanjat Kanjilal (Brigham & Women's Hospital)
- Dr. Amy Pickering (Tufts)
- Leo Flor (Director of HHS at King County, WA)
- Dr. Michael Mina (Harvard/Brigham & Women's Hospital)
- Dr. Nancy Krieger (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Dr. Jarvis Chen (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Dr. Maia Majumder (MIT)
- Marie-Laure Charpignon (MIT)

City Testing Working Group

- Dr. Amy Bantham, ICS
- Kristen Stelljes, ICS
- Glenda Soto, SPS
- Liz Gaskell, Broad Institute
- Doug Kress, ICS
- Jeff Curley, SPS
- Omar Boukili, ICS
- Tim Snyder, ICS

Building Experts

- Rich Raich, City of Somerville
- Fitzmeyer and Tocci
- PMA (OPM)

Safer Teachers, Safer Students PK12 Testing Collaborative



External Factors

Indicators for Moving to Later Phases

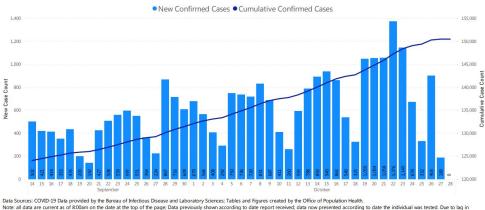
Somerville's team of science and medical experts have identified research-based metrics and situational factors, locally and regionally, that will inform whether it is safe to reopen schools.

- 3-, 7-, and 14-day rolling average rate positive case rates (percent of total tests)
- Daily positive cases (number of cases)
- COVID Testing rates
- COVID Testing capacity
- Sewer wastewater testing
- Contact tracing capacity and quality
- The direction and velocity of trends
- Evolving science and research
- Guidance of experts: epidemiologists, virologists, etc.

Current COVID-19 Landscape

- 1,376 new cases in MA Oct 22, highest one-day hike since May
- Tests of wastewater at Deer Island show increased traces of coronavirus not seen since Spring



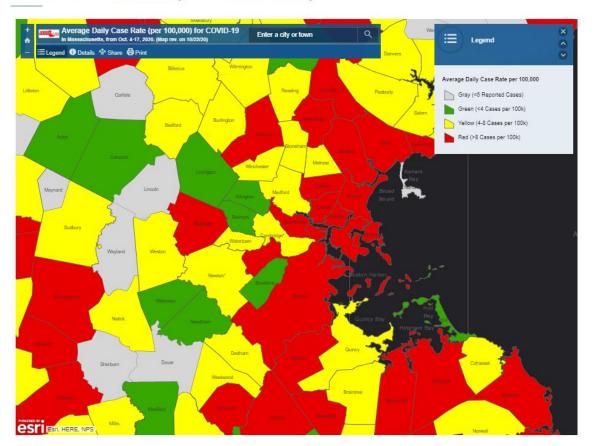


Note: all data are current as of 8:00am on the date at the top of the page; Data previously shown according to date report received; data now presented according to date the individual was tested. Due to lag in

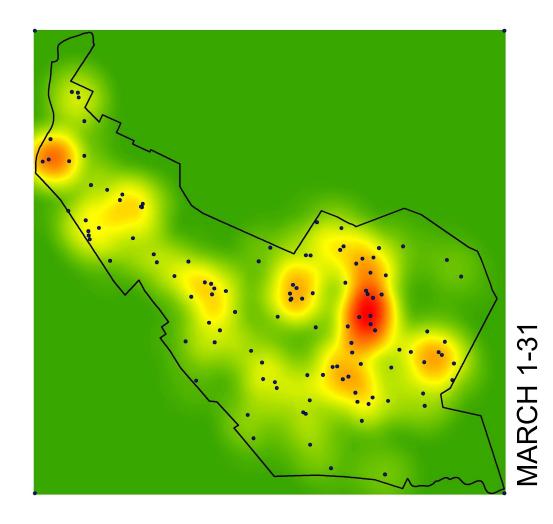
Somerville COVID-19 Dashboard (10/29/2020)

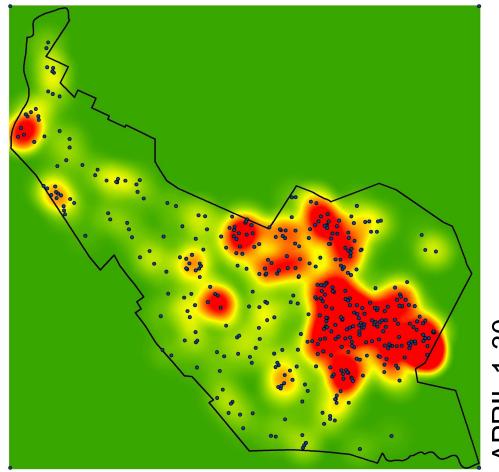
Total Positive Cases	Current Active Cases	Total Recovered Cases	Total Fatalities
1,539	158	1,336	45

COVID-19 Community-Level Data Map

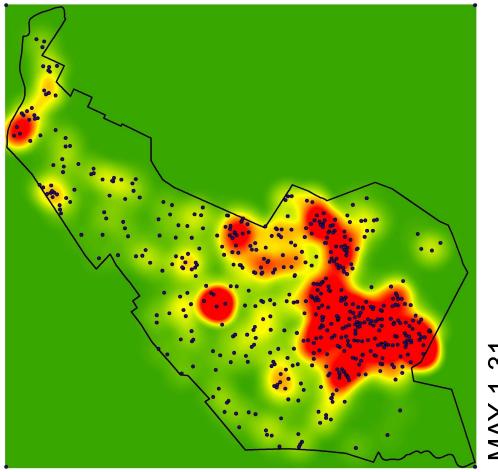


Somerville:	Red
Total Case Count:	1,390
Two week case count:	91
Avg Daily Incidence Rate Per 100,000	8.5
Relative Change in Case Count:	Higher
Tests in last 14 Days:	24,435
Percent Positivity:	0.39%

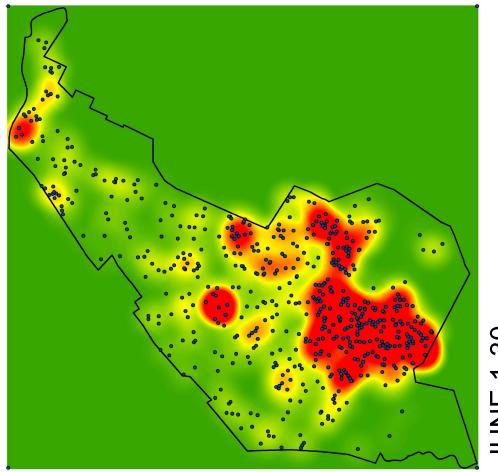




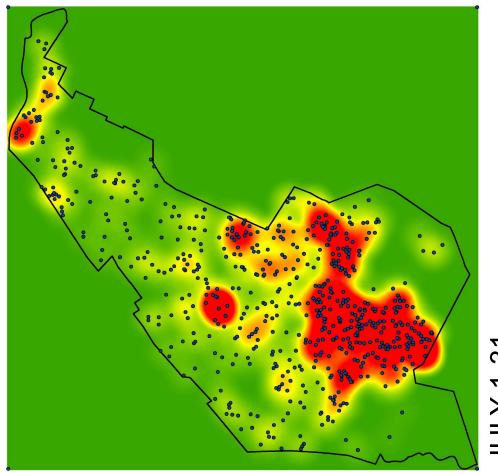
APRIL 1-30



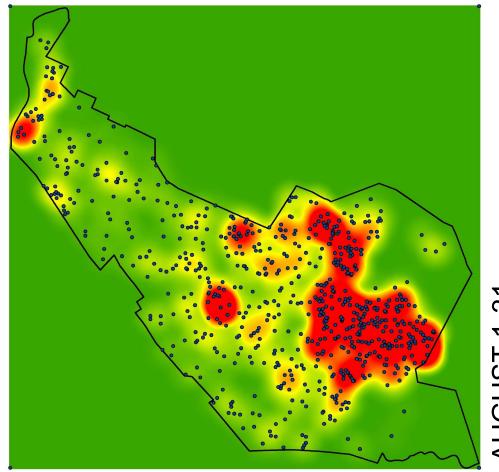
MAY 1-31



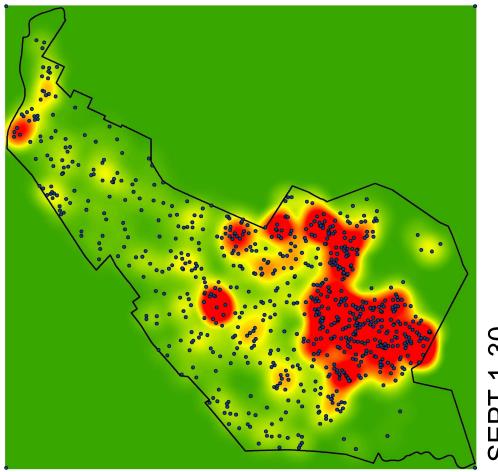
JUNE 1-30



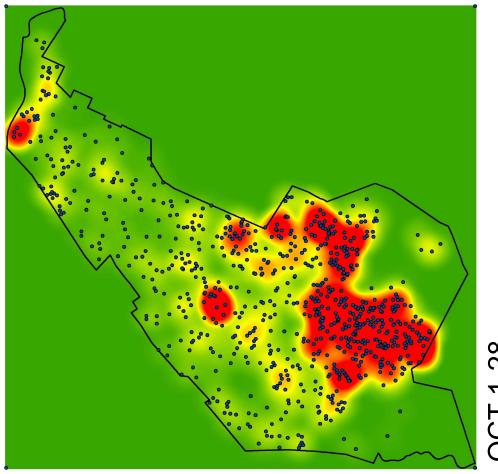
JULY 1-31



NUGUST 1-31



SEPT 1-30

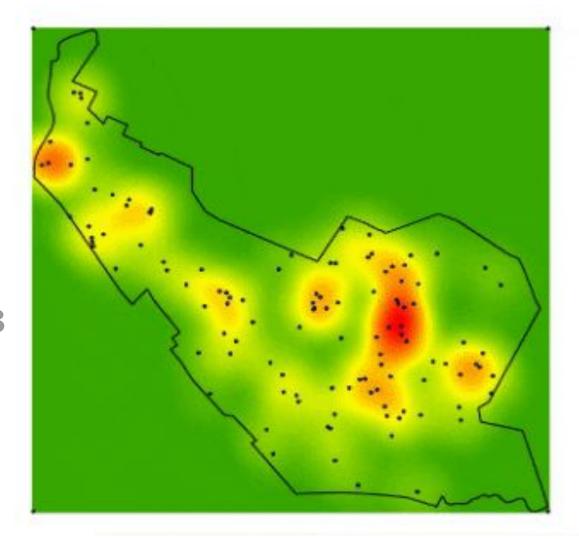


OCT 1-28

Somerville Confirmed COVID-19 POSITIVE Cases

March 1 - October 28

Each frame is one month



Specific Indicators Include:

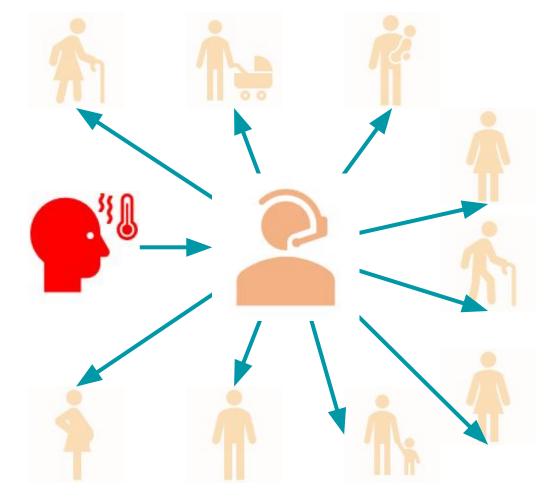
*Indicators (Average Daily Incidence)	Lower Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Current Level
Rate per 100,000	< 4	4 < X < 8	> 8	8.5
Percentage of Positives	< 1%	1% < X < 5%	> 5%	0.39%
Test Result Turnaround	< 24hrs	24hrs < X < 48hrs	> 48hrs	24-36 hrs





Contact Tracing: Answer the Call

- Used to identify people who are more likely to get sick because they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- If you are being contacted, it's because someone identified you as AT RISK of developing COVID-19
- Contact tracers will never ask for personal information like Social Security #
- Call local board of health to confirm contact tracer if unsure



Internal Factors

COVID-19
Testing, Contact
Tracing, Safety
Protocols
Operational

Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 Testing

With the City's support, the Board of Health is actively working to issue an order mandating the seasonal flu vaccine and COVID-19 testing protocol for all students and staff.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine

- Required before returning to in-person education
- The City and SPS have been hosting free seasonal flu vaccine clinics
- Or contact your medical provider
- Or visit local pharmacy

Routine COVID-19 Testing

 Adopting protocol that will adapt to school building reopening plan to provide students, staff, and close contacts with readily accessible COVID-19 testing on a routine basis.

Make a plan to get your student's seasonal flu shot

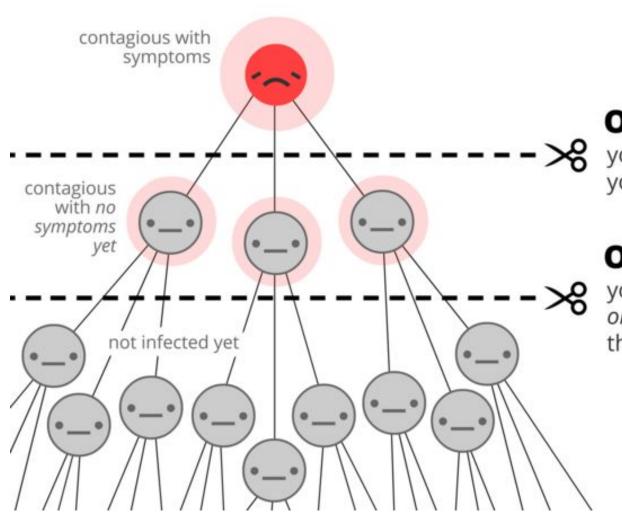
Student Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics

- HHS and school nurses are planning seasonal flu vaccinations for students; watch for details from your principal
- Please check with your student's primary care provider to make sure that their vaccinations and health records are up-to-date and submitted to their school nurse

Residents can also receive seasonal flu vaccines at their local pharmacies and through their medical provider. More information at somervillema.gov/flu

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



ONE STEP BEHIND

you self-isolate only when you know you're infected

ONE STEP AHEAD

you self-isolate when you or a close contact knows they're infected

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by Marcel Salathé (epidemiologist) & Nicky Case (visualizer) 1

Criteria Used to Select Approach + Testing Partner

- 1. Flexibility: Partner and City/SPS have ability to change approach to adapt to changing phases and situation
- 2. Sustainability: We have the ability to maintain logistics & cost over time
- 3. Acceptability: Staff and students feel comfortable taking the test; it is as non-invasive as possible and individuals can easily access the tests
- 4. Reliability: We have confidence in the results we are getting (high specificity is especially desirable)
- Ability to test minors: Partner has ability to work with a student population
- 6. Rapid results: Test results are ideally returned within 24 hours after receipt of samples

COVID Tests + Criteria

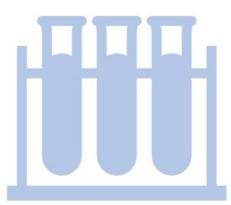
	Ginkgo Bioworks/Immune Observatory	Tufts University/Broad/Cataldo	
Flexibility	Legal agreement between district and Ginkgo for in kind donation, can book now for November but likely not Thanksgiving week	Incentive to work with Somerville, developing methodology for surrounding communities targeting Somerville and Medford, ongoing relationship	
Sustainability	Free, one-time donation for staff baseline only City administers test	Individual tests (shared cost) and pooled testing capacity, City hires Cataldo to administer test.	
Acceptability	Saliva	Anterior nasal Anterior nasal, pooled	
Reliability	PCR: 100% all	PCR: 100% all	
Ability to Test Minors	No	Yes	
Rapid Results	Within 24-72 hours, includes overnight shipping	Within 24 hours, local lab	

Testing Partners

Baseline Testing

COVID-19 Screening

Tufts University
Broad Institute
Cataldo



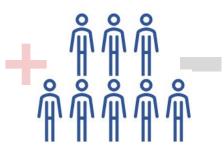
- All SPED High Needs
- ELL Levels 1 & 2 (K-8)
- Grades Pre-K & K

NOV	DEC
30	1

Start with Individual Tests



Transition to Pooled Tests



SPS COVID-19 Testing: Not Using "Brain Tickle"

Anterior Nasal Swab

- Minimally invasive
- Anterior nostrils (lower part) gently swabbed in circular motion
- May be self-administered in older students (16+), trained health staff will administer to younger students
 - Preferred testing method for students and staff

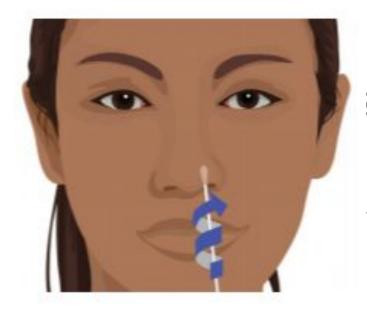


Image source CDC

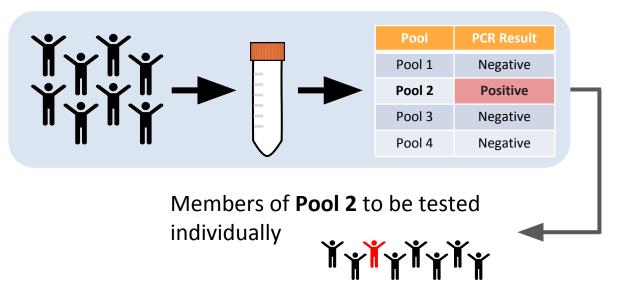
COVID Testing will be FREE

What Is Pooled Surveillance 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



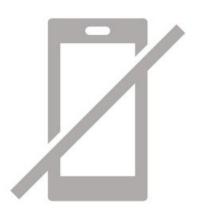
How will Individual Test results be communicated?

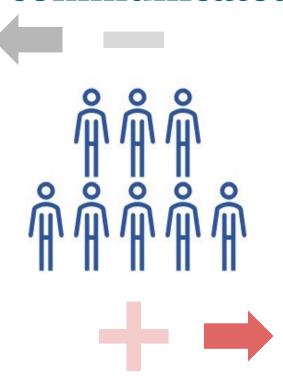


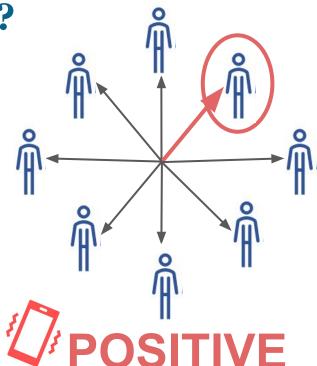
How will Pooled Test results be

communicated?

NEGATIVE







(All Individual Results **Communicated)**

How will positive cases be handled?

Individual positive test

- Health and Human Services will contact individual and enroll in the contact tracing program
- Tracers will coordinate with SPS administration and school nurse
- School nurse will coordinate: contacting school close contacts, students' return to school, and answer questions
- SPS will coordinate cleaning, staffing, and school work for positive individual
- Household contacts will be encouraged to be tested via PCP, CHA/mobile testing program, or home visit (exploring)

Pooled positive tests

- Health and Human Services will contact pool and coordinate re-test to identify individual positive case
- Individual positive test process implemented
- All pool members quarantined until positive case(s) identified

Quarantine vs. Isolation

DAYS

≥14

- Quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others
- Full quarantine must be observed even after NEGATIVE test result
- Quarantine period starts after exposure to infectious COVID-19 POSITIVE individual

DAYS

≥10

- Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.
- Isolation period starts after symptoms develop or POSITIVE test result

Old CDC Definition:

Close Contact

mi Some was fee person 15 consecu minutes

New CDC Definition:

Close Contact



Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period

Will we offer COVID testing for close contacts?

- Somerville residents will be encouraged to get a free test through CHA/mobile clinic
- Exploring option to offer home visit for testing for household contacts
- Non-resident staff will be directed to Stop the Spread sites



SPS Nurses Are Preparing for Safe Transition to In-Person

- Communication and education with staff, parents, and students.
- Ongoing communication with SPS administration & Somerville Health Department with any concerns or questions.
- Contact tracing to inform close contacts.
- Confidentiality will be maintained per SPS district policy and DPH guidelines.

Internal Factors

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

Doing everything we can to create SAFE environments for students and staff when they return

School & Classroom Setup

- Desks & tables spaced 6 feet apart ✓
- Sinks or sanitizer stations in classrooms ✓
- Virus shields placed in some high traffic areas -
- Isolation room in every school ✓
- In-building protocols ✓

Air Quality

- Assess air quality/circulation in all schools -
- Upgrading ventilation and filtration
- Investing in air filters and outdoor tents -

Enhanced Cleaning

- Plan for enhanced daily cleaning & sanitizing -
- DPW purchased more electrostatic sprayers to disinfect buildings - ✓

Doing everything we can to create SAFE environments for students and staff when they return

Masks, Face Shields, Gloves

SPS has also ordered 270,000 masks that meet BOH health and safety guidelines; 24,000 pairs of gloves; and hundreds of face shields - ✓

Develop Testing Protocols

- Develop protocols and identify provider to: ✓
 - Conduct baseline testing coupled with ongoing routine virus testing for students and staff
 - Provide results within 24 48 hours
 - Provide contact-tracing for positive cases

Bus Transportation

Limited capacity; One student per row on bus

Tented Outdoor Spaces

For recreation/engagement - ✓

School cleaning and disinfecting



Frequency: Daily cleaning for shared spaces and high touch surfaces (door handles, light switches, railings, toilet handles, and toilet seats).

Desks: When cohorts or students move between classes or when meals eaten at desks, cleaning and disinfecting must take place between classes and before and after meals. Cleaning of desks, chairs, and high touch surfaces may be done by teachers or custodial staff.



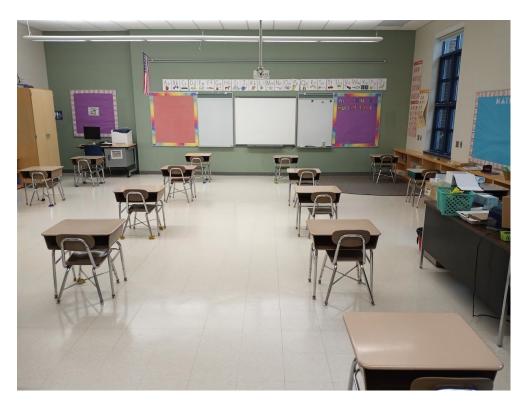














Building Assessments - Risk Management



schedule estimates

remaining schools

and to improve

operations

construction required

to attain thresholds.

and open spaces

Group ONE schools

Understanding Primary Airborne Audit Risk Assessment - Scoring System

1.00	1.99	2.00	2.99	3.00	4.00
Low Risk		Moderate Risk		High Risk	
Air handling consistent with ASHRAE guidelines for aerosol spread prevention		Some air handling, but not to reliable levels for aerosol spread prevention		Little to no air handling, allowing aerosol concentration	
score for oper	= Assessment ning a building student use				

Building Assessments - Deemed Unsafe During Pandemic

	Exi	sting	Po	tential	
Building	Score	Risk	Score	Risk	Building system summary
Brown	3.67	High Risk	2.01	Moderate Risk	No ventilation or central HVAC system. Only ventilation is via operable windows. Existing in space cooling units do not include any filtration.
Edgerly (CTE, NWFC)	3.08	High Risk	2.14	Moderate Risk	No ventilation or central HVAC system. Only ventilation is via operable windows.
Existing High School (1895, 1929)	3.42	High Risk	N/A	High Risk	No ventilation or central HVAC system. Only ventilation is via operable windows.
	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0 3.5 4.0

53

Space & Implementation Planning

- Aligning building mitigation with academic need

Unavailable Buildings

- Old SHS, Edgerly CTE & NWFC classrooms, Brown School
- Students will be placed in alternative spaces based on SPS in-person phasing schedule
- Renovations to Edgerly and Brown will be evaluated along with municipal buildings starting in early 2021

Eligible Buildings

- Evaluated mitigation logistics and best use of each building
- IAM estimated difficulty/schedule for each building
- Work must be completed on a per-building basis
- Buildings will open in phases as mitigation work brings buildings to Low Risk range
- SPS determined how priority students could occupy each building

Students may not be returning to their original school this year. Students will be brought back into available spaces as buildings are ready, based on the SPS phased hybrid in-person plan.

Building Assessments-Group ONE Schools

	Existing		Potential		
Building	Score	Risk	Score	Risk	Building system summary
Argenziano	2.09	Moderate Risk	1.2	Low Risk	Has good central air system to work with to increase filtration and/or ventilation but does not currently have any humidification.
Capuano	2.57	Moderate Risk	1.29	Low Risk	Has good central air system to work with to increase filtration and/or ventilation but does not currently have any humidification.
West Somerville	2.53	Moderate Risk	1.52	Low Risk	Includes both central system and single zone systems that can be modified to increase filtration and/or ventilation but there is no existing humidification.



Building Assessments-Group TWO Schools

	Exi	sting	Po	tential	
Building	Score	Risk	Score	Risk	Building system summary
East Somerville	2.32	Moderate Risk	1.75	Low Risk	Has good central air system to work with to increase filtration and/or ventilation but does not currently have any humidification.
High School Mods	2.02	Moderate Risk	1.49	Low Risk	Each room served by ventilation units that include filtration and that can be improved.



Building Assessments - Group THREE Schools

	Existing		Potential		
Building	Score	Risk	Score	Risk	Building system summary
Healey	2.32	Moderate Risk	1.56	Low Risk	Has good single zone systems in place that can be modified to increase filtration and/or ventilation but there is no existing humidification.
Kennedy School	2.69	Moderate Risk	1.36	Low Risk	Most spaces are served by systems that include filtration and ventilation, which can be improved. Corridors have minimal airflow. No humidification.
Winter Hill	2.46	Moderate Risk	1.45	Low Risk	Most spaces are served by systems that include filtration and ventilation, which can be improved but there is no humidification. Airflow pattern in classrooms can be improved as well.

2.5

3.0

1.5

2.0

57

4.0

Building Assessments - New High School

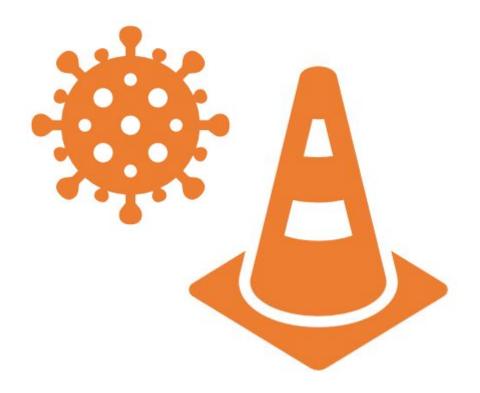
	Exi	sting	Ро	tential	
Building	Score	Risk	Score	Risk	Building system summary
New High School (2020)	N/A	N/A	1.2	Low Risk	New centralized system

9						
1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0

Building Assessments - Approach and Timeline

- June Define scope, hire consultant
- July Site visits, assess COVID-19 transmission risk
- August Identify full range of possible mitigation measures, and refine to short list of measures for each building/space, estimate reduction in risk
- September-October Prepare preliminary designs, schedule & cost estimates, refine plan to achieve schedule & risk reduction goals, develop procurement strategy
- November Undertake COVID-19 improvements
- December Projected start of phased opening as buildings are ready

School Grouping	Expected Work Completion	In-Person Phase Sequence	In-Person Education Target Start Date
Argenziano, Capuano, West Somerville	December 1, 2020 (Expected)	Phases 2A & 2B: All SPED High Needs, ELL Levels 1 & 2 (K-8) Phase 3A: Pre-K & K	Dec 3 - 10, 2020
New Somerville High School	January 2021	Phases 2A & 2B Cont.: ELL Levels 1 & 2 (9-12) Next Wave/Full Circle CTE Seniors	January 2021
High School Mods, East Somerville	Jan/Feb 2021	Phases 3B: Grades 1 & 2 Grades 3-12 TBD	Jan/Feb 2021
Healey, Kennedy, Winter Hill	March/April 2021	Phases 4+	March/April 2021



CHANGING VIRUS PATTERNS AHEAD

Phased Hybrid In-Person Begins

Phased implementation of Hybrid In-Person instruction begins for prioritized student populations:

- Phase 2a SPED High Needs (December 3)
- Phase 2b ELL Levels 1 & 2 (December 7)
- Phase 3a Pre-K and K (December 10)

There are other high-need populations including students who are DCF involved, homeless, ELL levels 3 & 4, and students who need Special Education resource room supports whom we intend to serve in learning labs. More information to come.

Phase	Рор.	
2A	SPED High Need	
2B	ELL Levels 1 & 2	
3A	PreK-K	
3B	Grades 1-2	
4A	Grades 3-4	
4B	Grades 5-6	
4C	Grades 7-8	

Resuming In-Person Education Plan

- Baseline testing of students and staff
- Three school buildings ready to reopen for in-person on December 3: Argenziano,
 Capuano, West Somerville
- Phases 2a (SPED), 2b (ELL), and 3a (PK, K) will start in December
- No additional phases will begin until after January 1

	Classrooms	Students	Teachers/Staff
Phase 2a (12/3)	19	212	125
Phase 2b (12/7)	16	455	43
Phase 3a (12/10)	31	650	80
Total	66	1,317	248

Hybrid Full Remote with SPS Teachers vs. Hybrid in-Person

- District will be reaching out to families of these three groups to determine whether they prefer to remain in Hybrid Full Remote or transition to Hybrid in-Person
- SPS staff will be able to address your questions
- Families will have choice of remaining in Hybrid Full Remote with SPS teachers (not same as LMS system) or transitioning to Hybrid in-Person

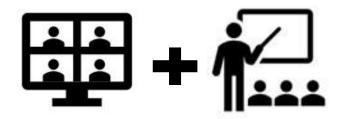






- Model all students began with this fall
- Hybrid Full-Remote students will learn as a class with a dedicated SPS teacher, and will include both <u>synchronous learning</u> (live, real-time instruction between a teacher and a student and independent work supervised by an educator) and <u>asynchronous learning</u> (engaging in independent work assigned by teacher, can involve online work, small group work, or other activities assigned to and completed independently by a student).
- Even when Hybrid In-Person (HIP) students begin to return to in-person instruction, students can opt to remain in HFR at home and continue all-remote instruction with SPS educators.
- HFR students will be able to transition to Hybrid In-Person instruction quarterly throughout the year.

Hybrid In-Person (HIP)



- All students began year in Phased Hybrid Full-Remote (HFR). We will begin to transition to
 Hybrid In-Person instruction (HIP) once all safety measures have been completed and are in
 place, including building mitigation efforts and virus routine testing.
- Students who prefer to remain in Hybrid Full-Remote can opt out of the in-person component when phased in-person begins.
- Once in Hybrid In-Person, most students will attend school in-person 2 days a week, either MON & TUES (Cohort A) or THURS & FRI (Cohort B) and learn remotely the other 3 days of the week (WED is a shared full-remote day).

Which students are going where?

Former Schools	Student Groups	2020-21 School Assignment
Argenziano East Somerville Kennedy Healey Winter Hill	ELL Levels 1 & 2 Special Education Program PK & Kindergarten	Argenziano
Capuano Healey	ECIP Special Education Program PK & Kindergarten	Capuano
Brown Kennedy Winter Hill West Somerville	Special Education Program PK & Kindergarten	West Somerville

Next Updates and More Information:

Schools Update Town Halls

Mid November

ResiStat Town Halls

- A series of pandemic-related town halls during fall/winter 2020
- Sign up for City alerts at <u>www.somervillema.gov/alerts</u>

Board of Health Meeting

Monday, November 2, 6:00PM

Questions?

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

Thank you!



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

