

Acton Boxborough Regional School District

Transition to School Plan

School Committee
August 5, 2020

Thanks

WORKING GROUPS			
<u>Instructional Core/SEL</u>	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Stakeholders & Communication</u>	<u>Human Resources & Finance</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Deb Bookis (facilitator)Debbie DixonAmy Bisiewicz* Juliana SchneiderBeth BakerDavid LawrenceSusan RootPeggy HarveyAmy Maciel* Mike BaluescuMaryann YoungDavid Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Dawn Bentley (facilitator)Erin BettezJD HeadDavid KraneDamian SugrueMaurin O'GradyJim MarcotteDiane SpringJoanne Chadwick	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Peter Light (facilitator)* Dana LabbChris WhitbeckMike CsorbaAllison WarrenErin DohertyKristin KilcominsHolly Nielsen VlainacKyra Wilson Cook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Marie Altieri (facilitator)Dave Verdolino* Larry Dorey* Andrew ShenLynne NewmanGabby BerberianAdam Klein

* Denotes Steering Committee member , additional recognition for Amy Krishnamurthy

Guiding Principles

- Safety and health are our top priorities.
- We will keep plans realistic for all stakeholders: students, families, staff and community.
- We will create warm and welcoming environments in our schools that prioritize connections with and among students and staff.
- We will support students' social-emotional well-being.
- Equity will remain at the core of our work as we plan for students.
- Our focus is on students as learners and individuals, not just about unfinished teaching and learning.
- Communication is critical to maintaining trust.

Acknowledging and Balancing Risk

The Parabola Project

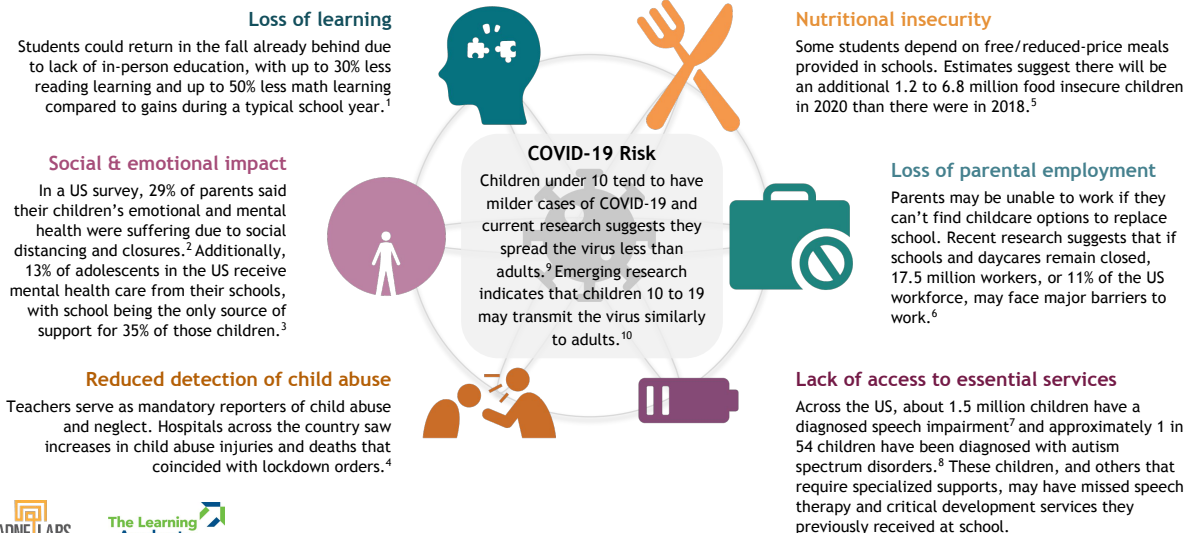
The Parabola Project* is a collaboration between Ariadne Labs and The Learning Accelerator with funding from the One8 Foundation

[Ariadne Labs](#) is a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham & Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Our vision is for health systems to deliver the best possible care for every patient, everywhere, every time. Our mission is to save lives and reduce suffering by creating scalable solutions that improve health care delivery at the most critical moments for people everywhere. Our main areas of work focus on solutions for childbirth, primary care, surgery, and serious illness care. We work in the United States and 26 other countries across the world.

[The Learning Accelerator](#) is a national nonprofit that is working to make the 'potential' possible and practical for every teacher and learner. Underpinning TLA's work is a drive to ensure each student receives an effective, equitable, and engaging education – one that is informed by data and supported by technology – that supports them to reach their full and unique potential. Our mission is to connect teachers and leaders with the knowledge, tools, and networks they need to enact practices to transform K-12 education.

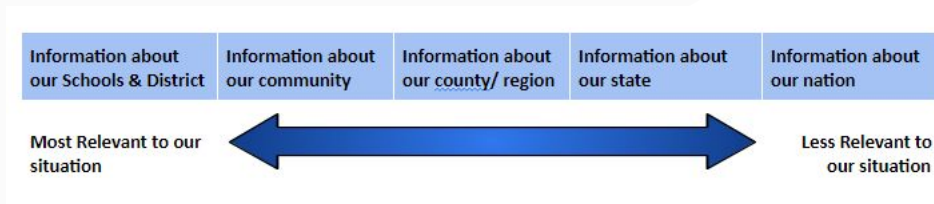
A Balanced View of Risk

The decisions around the return to school must reflect a global view of risk. We must balance the risks of COVID-19 infection with in-school learning, with other significant risks to the overall health and well-being of our kids when they are out of school.



Current Public Health Information

How we consider public health information

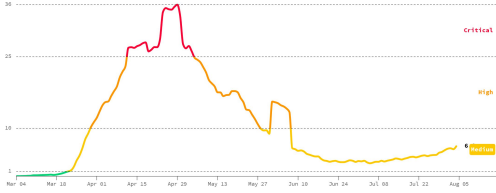


source: covidactnow.org

MASSACHUSETTS Daily New Cases Per 100k Population

Last updated August 5, 2020

Generated by
CovidActNow.org

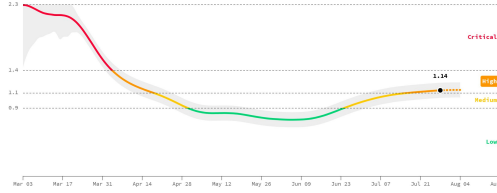


<https://covidactnow.org/us/ma>

MASSACHUSETTS Infection Rate

Last updated August 5, 2020

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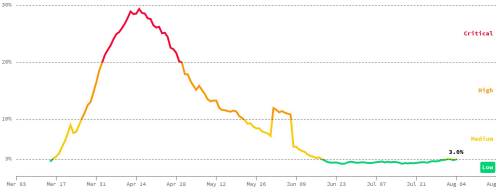


<https://covidactnow.org/us/ma>

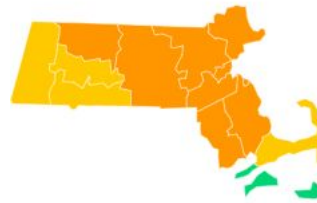
MASSACHUSETTS Positive Test Rate

Last updated August 5, 2020

Generated by
CovidActNow.org



<https://covidactnow.org/us/ma>



source: covidactnow.org

The Local context

Local Covid-19 Cases:

Acton - 4
Boxborough - 0

* as of 8/4/20

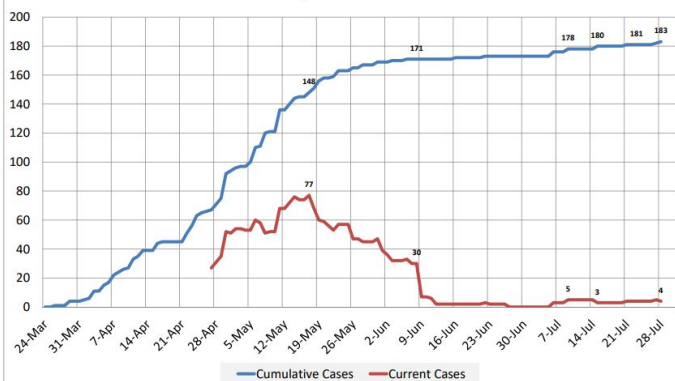
Middlesex County Data (covidactnow.org)

Daily New Cases (per 100K residents): 5.3
Infection Rate: 1.12
Positive Test Rate: No data available

* as of 8/5/20



Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Acton, Massachusetts



What does this data mean to us?

- Local (Acton/ Boxborough) data is favorable
- Middlesex County data more favorable than surrounding counties
- Massachusetts data remains generally favorable, but increasing incidence
- National data is concerning but not as immediately relevant

How does this impact our decision-making?

- We will continue to monitor data each day
- May need to make adjustments to starting plans

Safety Precautions

"There are **three critical health and safety practices** that are known to substantially reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, which we are calling **Three For You and Me.**"



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UNIVERSAL HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES: THREE FOR YOU AND ME

1	Masks/Face Coverings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students in preschool through grade 12 will be required to wear masks.* All faculty and staff will be required to wear masks.* Students will need to bring two masks from home on a daily basis. They can be reusable (but must be washed each day) or disposable. Masks will be available in each school should a student need a mask provided to them. Each school schedule will provide an opportunity for "mask breaks" throughout the day. These will occur with students six feet apart, ideally when students are outdoors.
2	Handwashing/Hygiene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival to the school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and prior to dismissal. Each school will place hand washing and sanitizing visuals throughout the schools to remind students and staff of proper handwashing and hand sanitizing procedures.
3	Distancing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our goal is to maintain a physical distance of six feet between individuals when possible. Three feet is the minimum distance allowed between people. During mask breaks, six feet of distancing between students and staff is required. Desks will be arranged at least six feet apart in classrooms and face the same direction. Alternative spaces in each school (e.g., cafeteria, library, auditorium, etc.) will be repurposed to increase available space and accommodate additional distancing.



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Recommended Plan

(as of 7/23)

Two Programs:

est. **80%** of
students (July)

In Person Program

est. **20%** of
students (July)

Remote Learning Program

Estimates based on early July surveys

Two Programs:

est. 80% of
students (July)

In Person Program

76% (Actual)

est. 20% of
students (July)

Remote Learning Program

24% (Actual)

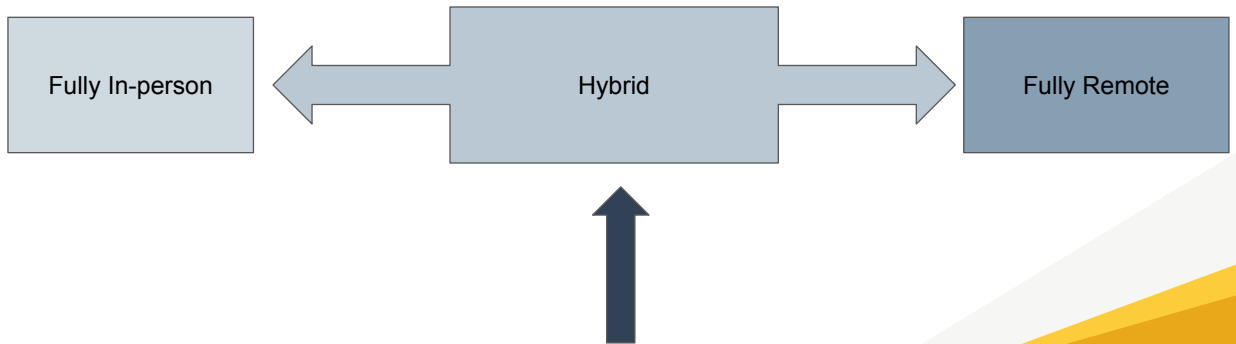
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ACTUAL ENROLLMENT IN LEARNING PROGRAMS 8/5/20

	Remote	In Person	Total Responded	% Remote	Total Non-Responded	Total Students	% Responded
RJ Grey	188	632	820	22.9%	12	832	98.6%
ABRHS	255	1470	1725	14.8%	50	1775	97.2%
Blanchard	136	336	472	28.8%	13	485	97.3%
Conant	166	208	374	44.4%	9	383	97.7%
Douglas	77	296	373	20.6%	10	383	97.4%
Gates	155	192	347	44.7%	16	363	95.6%
McT	115	348	463	24.8%	11	474	97.7%
Merriam	106	319	425	24.9%	9	434	97.9%
Elementary Totals	755	1699	2454	30.8%	68	2522	97.3%
Totals	1198	3801	4999	24.0%	130	5129	97.5%

In Person Program

Continuum of Learning Modes



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In Person Program: Hybrid Mode

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday**	Thursday	Friday
Blue Cohort	In-person	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	Combined, shortened remote teacher-directed instruction <i>(Early release for K-12 educator collaboration)</i>	In-Person	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>
Gold Cohort	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	In-Person		Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	In-Person

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In Person Program: Hybrid Mode

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday**	Thursday	Friday
Blue Cohort	In-person	Remote (Students work on assignments independently)	Combined, shortened remote teacher-directed instruction (Early release for K-12 educator collaboration)	In-Person	Remote (Students work on assignments independently)
Gold Cohort	Remote (Students work on assignments independently)	In-Person		Remote (Students work on assignments independently)	In-Person

Students in this mode of learning will:

- attend school in-person twice per week (days depending on cohort assigned)
- engage in remote independent learning twice per week.
- On Wednesdays, educators will meet with all of their students in a shortened and combined (both blue and gold cohorts) remote meeting (~20 minutes).

"The majority of students will be assigned a cohort by alphabet in order to keep siblings in the same cohort K-12."

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Remote Learning Program

Elementary

- District-wide grouping (not school based)
- Classroom teachers and ~~district curriculum coordinators and coaches~~
 - UPDATE 8/5 - Fully Staffed by 30 Classroom Teachers, plus Special Educators TBD
 - Teachers will work fully remote
 - Curriculum Specialists/ Coaches continue to support instruction for in-person/ remote learning
 - Few positions will need to be replaced
- Duration: ~~one year~~
 - Some flexibility for families within constraints of class size due to safety measures

Secondary

- Instruction from the same educators as students attending school in-person
- Teachers: 4 sections of in-person instruction and 1 section of fully remote learning
- Duration: ~~one year~~
 - Some flexibility for families within constraints of class size due to safety measures

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School Calendar Update (8/4/20):

- Pending School Committee Vote
- Start Date Changed: ~~9/8 (Tuesday after Labor Day)~~
 - DESE has added 10 days prior to start of school for teacher training
 - AB supplemented 1 additional (Total 11 Days)
 - **New Start Date: Monday 9/14**

Q&A

Possible Motions

Recommended motion: I move that Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee approve the Transition to School Plan as published, including the recommendation to begin the year in a hybrid model of in-person learning with a fully remote option for families, with the understanding that this plan may be altered by the administration based on changes to public health information.

Alternate motion: I move that Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee approve the Transition to School Plan as published, AND direct the District to begin the year in a [select one]:

- ☐ fully in-person learning mode; OR
- ☐ a fully remote learning mode;

with the understanding that this plan will include a full-year remote option for families, and with the understanding that this plan may be altered by the administration based on changes to public health information.