



Lawrence Public Schools • Post Office Box 1498 • Lawrence, MA 01842

Cynthia Paris

Superintendent of Schools

October 16, 2020

Hello Lawrence Public Schools families.

You may recall my communication last week regarding Lawrence's increasing COVID-19 rates, and the need to delay the return of high needs students to in-person learning. I am writing today to share that with the concerning upward trend continuing this week, we are taking the precautionary step of temporarily closing buildings and allowing staff to work from home.

As recommended by public health officials, we will reassess the data in three weeks, and determine next steps for a possible staff return. Until that time, students will continue to connect remotely each day with their teachers and classmates, with the same remote learning, attendance, grading and other school policies in place since the start of school last month. School leadership and support teams, including family technology liaisons, will remain available.

Please note the following:

- Grab 'n go breakfast and lunch will continue to be available every weekday from 11-2 at these six sites: Arlington, Frost, Guilmette, North Common Educational Complex, Parthum, and Lawrence High School campus. Meals for the entire weekend can be collected on Friday.
- The flu vaccine is available for all families at clinics being held throughout October and November at rotating LPS schools, in collaboration with the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. Get details at LPS meal sites or LawrencePublicSchools.org.
- Some in-person events scheduled at schools, including school supplies distribution, may be impacted. Your school will communicate any change in plans directly.
- The schedule for in-person assessments for English Learners or Initial Special Education Evaluations will be paused for the next three weeks.
- As a reminder, we currently hope to welcome back some of our high needs learners as soon as November 30, should local public health data sufficiently improve.

Thank you again for your patience and flexibility as we continue to adjust to ever-changing circumstances. We will communicate with you regularly in the weeks ahead, including updates regarding our community's COVID-19 status and its impacts on teaching and learning.

Thank you,

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools