

**MISSION:** To provide opportunities and pathways in a safe, supportive and technology-rich environment that engage, challenge and inspire students to achieve college and career readiness and to contribute to our 21<sup>st</sup> century community.

JOHN J. ROBIDOUX  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

## SWANSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ONE GARDNERS NECK ROAD  
SWANSEA, MA 02777  
(508) 675-1195  
FAX (508) 672-1040

ELIZABETH A. WHITE  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Swansea Community,

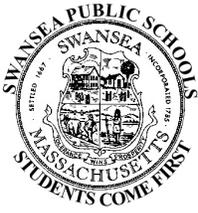
Today, Governor Baker's office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released their *initial* guidance about reopening schools this fall. We applaud the level of thought and care that went into the development of this guidance, and share its goal of the safe return of as many students as possible to in-person school settings in order to best meet students' academic, social, and emotional needs.

Throughout the next several days, we will be reviewing the directives and will begin to develop plans for Swansea Public Schools. We acknowledge that these *initial* directives do not address every topic and that there will be additional guidance coming throughout the summer. The full document can be found on the Swansea Public Schools' website, but here is an outline of some key components:

- Current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults.
- Preventive measures include masks/face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above and for all adults; they are recommended for students in Pre-k, K and Grade 1
- Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of **three** feet has been established

The District will need to develop three separate plans - one for return to full in-person instruction with safety requirements, one for full remote learning, and one for hybrid learning that combines in-person and remote learning. Based upon the current medical situation, the expectation today is that students will return to full in-person instruction in the fall; *however*, that is subject to change based upon how the medical situation develops.

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We acknowledge that there are still many unanswered questions and situations that we will have to navigate. Continued communication will be forthcoming throughout the next several weeks. I encourage you to read the full document referenced above and if you have questions to please send them to me at: [jrobidoux@swanseaschools.org](mailto:jrobidoux@swanseaschools.org)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as these are obviously unprecedented times.

Stay safe and be well,

John J. Robidoux  
Superintendent of Schools

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