



MEMORANDUM

To: Berlin-Boylston Regional School District
From: Jeffrey T. Zanghi, Superintendent of Schools
Date: August 20, 2021
Re: Update from DESE

August 20, 2021

Dear Families, Staff and Students:

Like the New England weather, including the forecast we are faced with this weekend, news from the MA Department of Education continually changes, sometimes within a day. Earlier this morning, we received word that the Commissioner of Education would hold a press conference later in the morning. That news was reiterated in a press release that can be found [here](#) in its entirety.

Essentially, on Tuesday the Commissioner of Education will ask the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education *“to grant him authority to mandate masks for all public K-12 students, educators, and staff through October 1 to ensure schools fully reopen safely and to provide time for more students and educators to get vaccinated. After October 1, the commissioner’s policy would allow middle and high schools to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated students and staff only if the school meets a certain vaccination rate – at least 80 percent of students and staff in a school building are vaccinated. Unvaccinated students and staff would still be required to wear masks.”*

Given the latest update, the School Committee meeting scheduled for this coming Tuesday, August 24th, will still take place as we are unsure at this time of the DESE Board vote and, if approved, consideration for next steps beyond October 1st as well as other updates that we would like to make the school community aware of before we open to staff on Thursday, August 26th and students on Monday, August 30th.

Please join us on Tuesday, August 24th at 6:30pm live in the Tahanto Regional Middle/High School auditorium for the School Committee meeting.

Important Dates:

- September 15, 2021: BBRSD Mobile Vaccine Clinic at Tahanto Regional Middle High School, sponsored by the MA Dept. of Public Health. More information to come on August 24. Students, staff, parents, and community members are welcome.
- August 22, 2021: Town of Boylston Vaccine Clinic 12:00-3:00 p.m. at Town House, 599 Main Street Boylston. [Click here for more information](#). WALK-INS WELCOME!
- August 24, 2021: School Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tahanto Auditorium See agenda [here](#).
- August 31, 2021: School Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Tahanto Multi-Purpose Room. Agenda to be posted on August 27.

Articles of Interest:

- [New York Times: Best Masks for Kids](#)

Thank you and be safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey T. Zanghi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light blue rectangular border.

[Jeffrey T. Zanghi](#),

Superintendent of Schools