



The Berlin-Boylston Regional School District
Jeffrey T. Zanghi, Superintendent of Schools

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May 18, 2021

Dear Parents and Families:

In accordance with the Governor's orders, below is the updated DESE guidance that we will be following beginning Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

The Commissioner of Education will be providing additional guidance on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. We will provide an update on this guidance in Friday's weekly newsletter.

- On May 17th, 2021, after consultation with the MA COVID Command Center's Medical Advisory Board, the Governor announced that given the low rate of outdoor transmission of COVID-19, **students no longer have to wear masks when outdoors, even if distance cannot be maintained.** Effective May 18, this guidance update applies to recess, physical education, youth sports, and outdoor learning environments. Adults must continue to wear masks outdoors if distancing cannot be maintained. **At this time, adults and students must continue to wear masks indoors. *Parents can still opt to have their child wear a mask during outdoor activities.**

After consultation with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, it has been determined that close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual **while outdoors at recess do not have to quarantine.** DESE will issue an updated Protocols to Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios document accordingly.

- **Are students allowed to share objects (classroom materials or art supplies?)**
On May 17th, 2021, after consultation with the MA COVID Command Center's Medical Advisory Board, the Governor announced that given the low likelihood of surface transmission of COVID-19, schools no longer have to avoid sharing objects. This includes classroom materials, items for physical education, or art supplies. Shared objects no longer have to be cleaned or disinfected between use and we will follow updated cleaning guidance that will be announced this week.

Jeffrey T. Zanghi,
Superintendent of Schools

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