



NBPS Newsflash

A LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS ANDERSON

Greetings Team,

Phase III of our gradual reopening began this week. We added Cohort B students, 1,070 in B1 and 1080 in B2, in addition to the current 400 students in Cohort A. These totals equal 15% of our total population of over 13,000 students. Our precautions are in place including strict enforcement of 6-foot physical distancing and mask wearing for everyone. Published elsewhere in this newsletter is the revised NBPS Face Covering Policy, which we all are required to follow.

We work daily with health officials locally and on the state level to monitor the positivity rate in the city and the potential impact on our students and staff. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and DESE continues to evolve and we use their recommendations combined with the New Bedford Department of Health to inform our response to the virus trajectory rate. I know anxiety continues to be high as the city has remained in the state's red category for the last 4 weeks.

However, in recent weeks the CDC has developed a school specific indicators that focuses on three core areas including:

- Data metrics for cases per 100,000 people
- Average positivity rate
- Effectively implementing 5 mitigation strategies consisting of:
 - proper use of masks
 - appropriate physical distancing
 - hand hygiene (washing or using sanitizers)
 - disinfecting
 - contact tracing procedures...

Our schools are effectively implementing these protocols.

Based on New Bedford's most recent data, the 10 average of daily cases per 100,000, a .2 increase from last week, we are in the Lower Risk of Transmission category defined for schools by the CDC. Since students have been in schools this year NBPS has had three positive adult cases out of our 2,500 staff, and one positive case for students in buildings.

Our team participates in several meetings per week with city officials and local health experts reviewing and analyzing the New Bedford specific case numbers, their locations, and the contact tracing process. Just to remind that a close contact is: someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 10 minutes within 2 days of the COVID-19 positive person showing symptoms or being tested (if asymptomatic).

Based on the CDC guidance, we will continue to implement our Hybrid plan as we currently have 15% of our 13,000 students in school buildings at once. My focus remains on keeping all staff and students safe and enforcing requirements for mask wearing and appropriate physical distancing.

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The real path to greatness, it turns out, requires simplicity and diligence... It demands each of us to focus on what is vital — and eliminate all the extraneous distractions.

— Jim Collins

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A LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS ANDERSON

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Our daily tracking of the virus data trends provides clear information regarding the necessity to shift from Hybrid to full distance learning if we see a pattern of positivity emerging. This means that we are currently averaging 10 positive cases over a 14-day period, so 10 people per 100,000 being positive still has us at the lower risk based on the CDC indicators.

During the last few weeks New Bedford has remained steady at an average of 9 cases per 14-days. However, information from this past Tuesday indicates no new cases for any school-aged child between 3 and 19 years of age. The increase in total cases was as low as 6 per the 100,000 this week, which is lower than the 14-day average.

Unfortunately, there will be cases that exist in the city, but I am confident that our precautions in schools are being effectively implemented and our overall school community continues to be diligent. The latest addition to our efforts is the deployment this week of over 600 HEPA air scrubber units to schools across the district.

I am committed to being transparent with you, our students, and our families regarding our processes including positive cases and contact tracing, as we will share appropriate information. We must focus on prevention – keep our distance and wear the mask when required.

As a reminder, we are having an engagement session for NBPS staff to share individual perspectives on School Resource Officers in New Bedford Public Schools on Tuesday, October 13. I hope you will add your voice to this important conversation by registering to participate. See the meeting notice on Page 4 with the link to sign up.

Thank you again for all that you do! Think of others – keep your distance and mask up.

Sincerely,



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent



Employee Wellness Corner



As we plan the wellness program for the upcoming year, it is critically important we provide wellness activities and resources based on your needs. The following survey should take only 3-4 minutes to complete. We deeply appreciate your participation!

To help us better understand your wellness interests,
please complete this [anonymous survey](#)



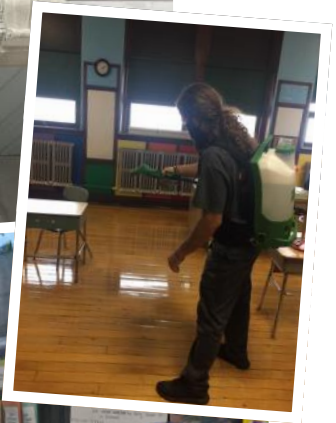
Employee Spotlight

Custodial & Facilities Team



NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Thank You!
New Bedford Public Schools
Custodial & Facilities Staff
You are appreciated!



This month, *Spotlight* would like to recognize the entire NBPS Custodial & Facilities Team!

It is with great joy & excitement that we welcomed back students into our buildings, but that would not be possible without the diligent work of our great custodians. Such care was taken to prepare buildings for our fall reopening, and this team has shown great pride in their work. From floors that shined with a “wet” look to the extra rounds of sanitization, these folks have been working tirelessly to help keep everyone safe.

Our Custodial and Facilities team are our first line of defense in the war on germs and often, it’s a thankless task. Show your appreciation to them as you pass them in the halls.





STAFF

School Resource Officer

CONVERSATION

HOSTED BY NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

3:30-4:30PM

Join us virtually to share your personal experiences with School Resource Officers in New Bedford Public Schools.

To join this event, please register with the link below:
[Registration Link](#)

[Can't attend? We still want to hear from you! Click here to share your experiences.](#)

NBPS Face Covering Policy (EBCFA)

Student and staff safety remain our priority. As we navigate through the unforeseen challenges that COVID-19 presents us, we work to ensure protocols and policies are in place that support a safe teaching and learning process. With that in mind, at my recommendation the NBPS School Committee approved a face covering policy: **FACE COVERINGS: EBCFA**, at the October 5 School Committee meeting. The policy will take full effect on Monday, October 19, 2020. All staff were already required to wear masks/face coverings and this policy now requires **students in ALL grades** to wear masks/face coverings.



Per CDC guidance individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following reasons if the individual:

- **has trouble breathing**
- **is unconscious**
- **is incapacitated**
- **cannot remove the face mask/face covering without assistance**

In addition, masks/face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask/face covering.

Additionally, face masks/face coverings will not be required when appropriate physical distancing is enforced:

- **during mask breaks**
- **while eating or drinking**
- **during physical education classes**
- **while outside**

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances. Our collective effort is essential as we continue to work on behalf of one another to be proactive to help eliminate the spread of the virus. I appreciate your dedication and flexibility during this unique time in our lives.

Want advance your teaching career, in Massachusetts or learn what you'll need to obtain a license to work in a public school?

At Lesley University, we know that navigating educator licensure requirements can be daunting. That's why on October 16 and 22, we're hosting 90-minute virtual workshops—**Decoding the Teacher License in Massachusetts**—to help existing and future teachers move their careers forward.

Join Lesley's certification and regulatory officer, and graduate admissions counselors, to learn about:

- Levels of teacher licensure in Massachusetts and what the state requires for each level
- Getting your initial teaching license
- Moving your initial license to a professional license
- Lesley's graduate education programs for aspiring or practicing teachers

We're ready to answer your questions on all things teacher licensure.

Register today to attend one of the virtual workshops!

Friday
Oct. 16th
10:00-11:30 am

Thursday
Oct. 22nd
6:00-7:30 pm



Lesley
UNIVERSITY

**Coming
Soon!**
Enrollment: 11/1-12/31

A Message from...

NBPS Benefits Office

Open Enrollment for New Bedford Public Schools will occur from **November 1st to December 31st**.

This is the opportunity to enroll or make changes to your:

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health insurance
- Flexible Spending accounts
- Life insurance
- Disability insurance

Any BC/BS Health Insurance rate or plan changes will be shared with all staff when those details are available.

[NBPS Benefits Webpage](#)

Please contact Marcia Tome in the benefits office 508-997-4511 ext. 14355 or mtome@newbedfordschools.org with any questions you may have.



FLU
SEASON
AHEAD

Need a flu shot?

*NBPS has partnered with
Walgreens to provide Flu-
Clinics to students & staff:*

Walgreens Flu-Clinic

Date: October 22nd

Time: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Normandin Middle School Community Room

81 Felton St. New Bedford

Sign-up: <https://forms.gle/Ec8CeG7dX4HRqfuM7>

Walgreens Flu-Clinic

Flu-Clinic for Students and Staff

Date: October 30th

Time: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Roosevelt Middle School Community Room

119 Frederick St. New Bedford

Sign-up: <https://forms.gle/VCrvkPkzYCNRRbFr6>

Please remember to wear your mask, and bring your insurance card.

****Additional dates to be announced***



Whaling City Jr. Sr.
High School

@WhalingCity455

Send Message

Like

Please visit, Like, and Share our Whaling City Facebook Page and our shared content. We appreciate your support! -Principal John Tweedie