



**Superintendent's Report
October 6, 2021**

Covid Update and Data Dashboard

On Monday, September 27th, Commissioner Riley announced that he is extending the mask mandate to November 1st for all schools. He offered the date of October 15th as a date that schools can consider for removing masks if they meet the 80% vaccination requirement. [To read the commissioner's memo click here.](#)

Prior to the August 17th School Committee meeting, I asked the committee to approve a mask mandate policy that was made moot when the commissioner issued a statewide mandate. To prepare for the moment when that mandate is retracted, at the October 20th School Committee meeting, I will ask for authority to lift the mask mandate, on a school by school basis, as long as three criteria are met:

1. 80% vaccination rate or greater
2. 70% consent for weekly covid check testing
3. Approval from the Nashoba Boards of Health based on local conditions by town

Having clear criteria as well as the endorsement of the Nashoba boards of health will allow me to enforce the masking mandate on a consistent basis. Currently, the only school under consideration for optional masking is Nashoba High School. To date the high school environment has an 85% vaccination rate and a 43% consent rate for testing. Based on the criteria listed in above, we would not remove the masking requirements at this time. Some have asked: "if I am vaccinated should I still consent for testing"? The answer is Yes! Pooled testing allows us to find out if we have asymptomatic cases in our school community amongst the vaccinated or unvaccinated. [Here is a link to the consent to test.](#)

To streamline Covid data reports, I have created a data dashboard with the helping hands of our nurses and Health and Wellness Director, Lesa Breault-Gulbecki. [The NRSD Covid Data Dashboard](#) has a tab for positive cases, vaccination rates by school and grade level, consent for testing, local town data, and a resource link page. This week we had one positive case at Luther Burbank. One week does not constitute a trend, but I like what I'm seeing.

Update on Routine Covid Safety Screen

Great news! We received notification this afternoon that a program coordinator has been assigned to our district for routine COVID safety screening. The program coordinator will work hand in hand with our schools, CIC Health and the Massachusetts DESE. We will begin testing first at the high school and quickly move onto the middle school and elementary schools.

AVC Meeting

On September 24th I attended my first Assabet Valley Collaborative board meeting. We discussed transportation costs for the FY21 school year and the current state of the transportation budget. Nashoba is currently up to date on all invoices and we will learn more on transportation costs for FY23 relative to specialized transportation in the coming months.

Stow Community Forum

On Wednesday, September 22nd, I held my first community meeting at Center School in Stow. I want to thank all the parents who attended the meeting, Chair Vivirito, Ross Mulkerin and Kyle Grady. The next forum will be held at Luther Burbank Middle School on Wednesday, October 13th. All families are welcome to attend.

Teaching and Learning Update

The Teaching and Learning Department continues to work with staff and students throughout the district. We have participated in learning walks through multiple classrooms, examining teaching and learning practices and offering resources and coaching for our faculty and staff. In addition, we are excited to be piloting new resources in Mathematics and Social Studies to align with new standards and benchmarks as well as reasoning methodology in Mathematics. These pilots will inform our work moving forward on selecting curriculum and resources for the district.

MCAS results were delivered this past week and sent home with a letter from the district explaining how the test and results from this past Spring season have been different from the past. To support students, families, and schools, DESE implemented a number of flexibilities, including some that were made available by the U.S. Department of Education and the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in acknowledgement of the challenges of the pandemic. As a result, this year's MCAS data will not count towards a district's accountability rating, but serve as a roadmap to accelerate student learning moving forward.

In addition, we continue to find and offer new and innovative professional development opportunities for staff. [The Ed Teach Teacher Innovation Conference](#), which highlights and offers multiple workshops on the latest innovative practices in K12 education will take place, in person, this November at Bentley University, and [MASSCUE](#) will hold it's fall conference virtually this year with plans to resume in person next fall at Gillette Stadium. The MassCUE conference is another opportunity for our teachers to engage in innovative practices, attend conferences and also present some of our own innovative and engaging work with colleagues from around the region.

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