

# BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 30, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

I hope you are finding time to enjoy the beautiful weather! Below please find some important updates.

## **Mask Mandate in Schools**

Governor Lamont has extended the mask mandate in schools through February 15, 2022. The Bolton Public Schools will continue to use layered mitigation strategies that are recommended by the CDC, DPH, CSDE, and EHHD which are designed to address the risks of COVID-19 spread in our schools and community, protect our students, teachers, and staff, as well as members of their households, and to support in-person learning. These mitigations strategies include:

- The wearing of masks by all students and staff in indoor school settings, as required through Executive Order No. 14 issued by Governor Lamont. Additionally, masks are required by CDC Order to be worn in all public transportation vehicles, including school buses. Currently masks are not required for outdoor activities, including recess and PE, except in instances when students cannot properly maintain social distancing.
- Physical distancing of at least 3 feet between students within classrooms where possible.
- Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Staying home when sick and getting tested.
- Contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection.

## **The Process of Contact Tracing**

The Bolton Public Schools conducts contact tracing in collaboration with Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD). The State Department of Public Health and the CDC provide the criteria that are used in the contact tracing process. Typically BPS school district staff conduct the contact tracing related to school exposure and EHHD oversees the contact tracing for community exposure. We must identify every individual who was within six feet (or three feet in a classroom when masks are worn and students are seated) of the COVID-positive person for 15 minutes or more – cumulatively – for the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or the date of test if no symptoms are present. As you can imagine, this is both a laborious and detailed process.

It is often necessary for us to connect with families for important information, especially families of COVID-positive students. If you are contacted by either BPS or EHHD staff, your help by thinking back over the infectious time period (48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or the date of test if

no symptoms are present) and being prepared to describe the symptoms, when they began, and the activities from that time to when your child was last in school is essential to this process. Our contact tracing includes the bus ride, lunch and recess times, and school sponsored afterschool activities. Likewise, please be prepared to share information with EHHD about out of school activities such as sports, events with family or friends, and other times your child was outside the home. Even though we have been doing this for many months now, we must continue to be diligent about collecting accurate information and identifying those individuals who may have become infectious. We appreciate your understanding and support with these efforts.

### **Recess Monitors at BCS**

I am seeking your help as we look to fill recess monitor positions at BCS. Duties include active supervision of grade level students during their recess time. The candidate(s) will be trained in any structured activities to be supervised and any appropriate behavioral expectations. The position will be three hours a day from 10:55 AM to 1:55 PM on days that school is in session for a full day and will be paid at a rate of \$13.00 an hour. There are no benefits associated with this position. If you know of someone who may be interested in one of these positions, please have them complete an online application at [www.boltonpublicschools.com](http://www.boltonpublicschools.com) under the Central Office/Human Resources/Employment tab and select job ID 490.

Again, I want to thank you for your continued partnership as we face these challenging times together.

Stay safe and be well,

*Kristin B. Heckt*

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Superintendent of Schools