

The Brooklyn Public Schools

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COVID Updated 2/4/2021
Connecticut COVID-19 Response
Northeast District Department of Health
Free Priority Testing Sites

February 4, 2021

Dear Staff and Parents,

I hope that each of you is well. I am happy to report that the number of positive COVID cases has declined in Brooklyn. Thank you all for doubling down on the mitigation strategies to slow the spread of the virus. I realize that the typical Super Bowl events will also need to change so that we can keep everyone healthy and keep schools open. Thank you for your efforts! Please check out the [CDC guidance](#) on hosting a virtual Super Bowl party! Dr. Fauci reminds everyone to enjoy the game with only your immediate family members who live in your home!

As indicated, I am continuing to monitor the school and community cases of COVID. I am pleased to see the numbers coming down over two weeks. Brooklyn's percent positivity has dropped to 6.7% and the total number of cases over the last 14 day period was 57! Two weeks ago we were at 10.6% positivity and Brooklyn had 112 new cases! Great job!

I am planning to reopen schools and hope that the rates remain low and that we are able to provide staffing to keep students in class. This requires everyone working together to ensure that we can remain open. Please see the schedule below below:

High needs programs:	Monday, 2/8/2021	All students follow the remote schedule
Tier II special needs:	Tuesday, 2/9/2021	All students follow the remote schedule
Hybrid will begin:	Thursday, 2/11/2021	Thursday: Cohort A in school, Cohort B home Preschool students will resume 5 days/week
	Friday, 2/12/2021	Friday, Cohort B in school, Cohort A home
President's Day	Monday, 2/15/2021	NO SCHOOL
Staff Development	Tuesday, 2/16/2021	Students have NO SCHOOL

We will continue to follow the hybrid schedule: Monday: Remote, Tuesday, Thursday Cohort A in school and Wednesday, Friday Cohort B in school.

As a reminder, there are 16 confirmed cases of B117 COVID variant in CT and it is presumed there are a lot more. This variant is much more transmissible and will result in more people becoming sick. We are being advised to **follow our mitigation strategies 100% of the time!** As we open, I want to remind you that while we are able to seat students' desks 6' apart, there are times during the day that they are within 6'. There has been no known transmission in our schools, but many schools have had transmission. It is likely to happen, especially with the new variants. This is why it is so important to wash hands, wear masks, maintain physical distancing, maintain room ventilation and stay home if you are sick! It is critical that you continue to communicate with the school if your child is sick or tests positive for COVID-19. **Please call the School Nurses:** [BES nurse's email](#) or 860-774-4618. [BMS nurse's email](#) or 860-774-1498. Reach out to your doctor and [COVID testing is available for free](#). [As a reminder, school counselors are available if you need to speak with them or would like your child to meet or speak with them.](#) We know this has been a very challenging time.

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

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I hope that we can maintain the hybrid schedule until we can return to a full in person schedule. There may be times that we will need to quarantine groups of students or classes. I will communicate with you if there are any changes. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia Buell

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