

Dear Sturgis Families,

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I write to you today with a few key updates as well as an important attachment.

Vaccinations

As I've noted previously, Massachusetts' governmental regulations are that middle and high schools with 80% COVID vaccination rates of students and adults may choose to allow vaccinated people to unmask. As of last Friday (September 10th), 60% of Sturgis East students, 67% of Sturgis West students, and 94% of Sturgis faculty/staff have been vaccinated for COVID. We have made very good progress as a community with our vaccinations; at the same time, we are not near the 80% threshold at either campus.

Quarantining

Sturgis' quarantining approaches and thresholds are consistent with our largest and nearest sending district (Barnstable) as well as Department of Public Health guidance. Sturgis' official protocols are attached to this email.

Thorough contact-tracing helps ensure safety but does not necessarily mean extensive quarantining. Quarantine protocols are impacted by a variety of factors, for example:

- Vaccinated individuals are less likely to have to quarantine when exposed.
- Mask wearing also contributes to the determination.
- Exposures in-school and out-of-school necessitate different responses.

Learning While Quarantining

Massachusetts public schools' primary goal is to safely provide in-person learning for as many students as possible for as much of the school year as possible.

The Department of Education has not required schools to offer a remote/virtual option like last school year. Sturgis is consistent with the vast majority of public schools in not offering a streaming option, out of consideration for the impact on in-person teaching and learning.

All assignments are accessible via Google Classroom, and our counseling team serves as a liaison for students while they are quarantining. Students on IEPs and EL students will receive further support from their respective teams.

Thank you all for your commitment and care to the health and well-being of our entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Marble".

Paul Marble
Executive Director