



Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of  
Elementary and Secondary Education



Monica Bharel, MD, MPH  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All privately-operated elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts  
**FROM:** Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Monica Bharel, Commissioner, Department of Public Health  
**SUBJECT:** Guidance related to reopening schools in Phase III  
**DATE:** July 29, 2020

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The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), in consultation with medical experts, issued health and safety guidance for the safe reopening of schools in the Fall. The goal of this guidance is to protect students, faculty and staff, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is also applicable in the context of privately-operated elementary and secondary schools.

It is strongly recommended that all privately-operated elementary and secondary schools also follow the guidance documents as you continue to plan for the Fall.

*General guidance related to Reopening Massachusetts:*

- [General Business Guidance](#)
- [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces](#)

*Guidance specific to elementary and secondary education:*

- [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance](#) June 25, 2020
- [Special Education Guidance for the 2020-21 School Year Memo](#) July 10, 2020
- [Protocols for responding to COVID-19 Scenarios](#) July 17, 2020
- [Transportation Guidance](#) July 22, 2020
- [Facilities and Operations Guidance](#) July 22, 2020
- [Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations](#) July 24, 2020

*Guidance specific to residence halls and other residential services:*

- [Higher Education Reopening Guidance and Phase 3 Control Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Order for Travelers and Returning Residents](#) Effective August 1, 2020

As circumstances and conditions continue to change, please refer to these sites for the latest guidance:

- For information related to Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools:  
[www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html)
- For information related to reopening residence halls and other residential services:  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-higher-education>