

March 3, 2021

The Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association (MA PTA) represents parents, educators and families in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We support re-opening of our school buildings for in-person instruction only when it is safe according to the most recent CDC guidelines; this is not a one size fits all situation. This would include the continuation of good ventilation, rigorous sanitation, viral screening and testing protocols, physical distancing, mandatory masking, and additionally giving school personnel priority access to vaccination as it is critical to meet the goal of school re-opening for in person learning. Vaccination is not a condition to re-opening schools safely, but a supporting factor. Those who work in the education sector should be considered frontline essential workers. The CDC continues to recommend guidance regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies which currently includes prioritizing school personnel for vaccination.

Following the CDC guidance and the implementation of mitigation practices, the transmission of COVID-19 has been minimized. The health and wellness of our school personnel is essential to the success of re-opening schools for full in person learning. We support the full implementation of current CDC guidance which includes prioritizing school personnel for vaccination. The MA PTA urges you to please consider giving school personnel vaccinations as a top priority with implementation to begin as soon as the supply is available for these frontline essential workers.

Sincerely,

Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association