



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR AND BOARD OF HEALTH

**EMERGENCY ORDER REQUIRING TESTING IN SCHOOLS FOR IN-PERSON
LEARNING**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Somerville has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Somerville and as such declared a State of Emergency in the City of Somerville on March 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that the spread of the disease from person to person is caused in part by respiratory droplets produced by infected persons and spread, e.g., via respiration, coughing or sneezing, and that people potentially can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms;

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville is the most densely populated City in the Commonwealth, and the risk of COVID-19 transmission remains an imminent threat;

WHEREAS, Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications receive the influenza vaccination;

WHEREAS, in-person learning poses unique risks based on the number of individuals in an indoor setting for extended periods of time;

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WHEREAS, the City of Somerville's goal is for students and staff to return to a safe school environment that will mitigate the potential exposure to and transmission of SARS-CoV2; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville was designated a higher risk community by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on October 14, 2020;

WHEREAS, testing, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine is the most effective strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that robust and regular testing enables rapid and efficient contact tracing and isolation/quarantine:

The Mayor and the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL c. 111 §§ 95-105, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §30, hereby order:

1. Prior to opening for in-person learning, any K-12 educational institution in Somerville must submit to the Board of Health for review a COVID-19 transmission prevention plan, as further detailed herein.
2. The plan must require ongoing testing of all teachers, employees, and any other individuals providing services in the school building(s).
3. The plan must provide a detailed testing protocol to identify and swiftly isolate asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, and symptomatic students who are COVID-19 positive.
4. The plan must provide exemptions only for those individuals who have a health contraindication documented by a physician.
5. In addition to the requirements above, the plan must include at a minimum:
 - a. Reporting identified positive cases to the Director of Health and Human Services within 24 hours
 - b. Student and staff requirements for masks covering the nose and mouth
 - c. Social distancing protocols
 - d. Sanitation and disinfection protocols
 - e. Students' compliance with the Governor's order on the 2020 seasonal flu vaccine
 - f. Compliance with CDC recommendations for the 2020 seasonal flu vaccine for all teachers, employees, and any other individuals providing services in the school building(s)
 - g. Plan for managing school busing, if relevant

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6. The applicant must include an explicit ongoing process to review the plan and any changes to the plans or protocols must be submitted in writing to the Board of Health prior to implementation.
7. Any educational institution open for in-person learning prior to the date of this order shall have until December 1st to submit a compliant plan to the Board of Health for review.

Douglas Kress, Director of Health and Human Services
Acting Agent of the Board of Health

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Date: November 2, 2020