



**Town of Bedford**

97 McMahon Road

[Bedfordps.org](http://Bedfordps.org)

## Superintendent Update

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola dos seus filhos - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译, 请联系您的孩子的 - 学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية، - 学校 - يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلاتك - Если вам нужна помощь с переводом этого документа, позвоните директору школы вашего ребёнка

**Friday, February 4, 2022**

Hello Bedford School Community,

Bedford Public Schools School and District ESSA Report Cards are [HERE](#)

I am pleased to distribute this year's Every Student Succeeds Act annual district and school report cards to all of our Bedford families. Our report cards include assessment and accountability data, teacher qualifications, and other information related to district and school performance. Our report card data highlights our strengths as well as our challenges in meeting the needs of all students. For more information please visit [ESSA Report Cards](#) type in Bedford or an individual school in the search bar and explore the information.

### Black History Month

Black History Month begins on Monday and is an annual celebration of the achievements of African Americans and a time to recognize the central role African Americans have played in our history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history. For more information please go to [History.com Black History Month Information](#)

### Welcome to the Year of the Tiger

Tomorrow, February 5, 2022 is the celebration of the Lunar New Year! Lunar New Year is a festival that celebrates the beginning of the new year according to the traditional Chinese

calendar. The celebration marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring. For more information please visit <https://chinesenewyear.net/>

#### National School Counseling Week February 7-11, 2022

National School Counseling Week will be celebrated February 7-11, 2022. During this annual celebration, I would like to take a moment to recognize the contributions of our school counselors across the district. NSCW is sponsored locally by The [Massachusetts School Counseling Association \(MASCA\)](#). For more information check out this [infographic](#) that tells you more about the role of school counselors.

#### New DESE/DPH COVID protocol Opt-in

The new DESE/DPH COVID-19 Testing Program provides a test kit to anyone who opts into the program. This program is in addition to our pooled and symptomatic testing programs. Everyone who opts in will receive a new kit every two weeks. If you would like to opt-in to the program please navigate to the [At-Home Antigen Test Opt-In Google Form](#)

Please sign up by Monday afternoon by 5 PM, to set our distribution lists for each school. The home tests are meant to offset the testing days done at school so that there are two days a week of testing monitoring being done.

#### **DESE Recommended Testing Schedule**

<b>School</b>	<b>In-school testing</b>	<b>At home testing</b>
JGMS	Monday	Thursday
Lane	Tuesday	Friday
Davis	Wednesday	Sunday
BHS	Wednesday	Sunday

It is important to note that this program is available to all who opt-in regardless of whether you are enrolled in pooled testing or not. The link to the opt-in form will allow you access to a two-week (at a time) supply of in-home antigen COVID-19 tests. These tests will augment our pooled tests giving each of us the opportunity to have two COVID-19 tests per week.

To be clear, both programs are voluntary and both are independent of one another. You can sign up for one or both. The at-home test should be used weekly, regardless of whether you have symptoms. If your child tests positive on an at-home antigen test, they should stay home and you are asked to inform your school nurse of the positive result.

Click Here to opt-in to [The NEW At-Home Antigen Test Opt-In Google Form](#)

Click here to view a video on [How to use the iHealth COVID 19 Test](#)

Click here for instructions [on how to use the iHealth COVID 19 Test in multiple languages](#)

Click here to consent to the ongoing Pooled Testing [Pooled-Testing Consent Form](#)

#### NEW COVID-19 Email Addresses

Please continue to utilize the COVID-19 email addresses for all COVID-19 related inquiries.

For the Davis School please email: [daviscovid@bedfordps.org](mailto:daviscovid@bedfordps.org)

For the Lane School please email [lanecovid@bedfordps.org](mailto:lanecovid@bedfordps.org)

For JGMS please email [jgmscovid@bedfordps.org](mailto:jgmscovid@bedfordps.org)

For BHS please email [bhscovid@bedfordps.org](mailto:bhscovid@bedfordps.org)

All cases of COVID-19 (both home tests and tests from a medical provider) should be reported to your child's school nurse using the above-listed email addresses. When reporting a positive case of COVID-19 please include the following information.

- Name of child
- Grade of child
- Date of symptom onset or the date the positive test was taken
- Date of testing and type of test performed (PCR or antigen)
- If the positive test was obtained from a home test, if possible, please schedule a PCR lab test to confirm.
- Date the last time your child was present in school
- Does your child attend school activities or sports and list the activity or team

#### Case Update Information

Moving forward we will continue to track reported positive student and staff cases via self-administered home-style antigen tests, as well as point of care tests (either PCR, rapid PCR, or rapid antigen). DESE guidance has been updated, and with the shortage of testing available, self-administered home-style antigen tests with a positive result are accepted and treated as a positive case of COVID-19. The dashboard is now up-to-date and can be accessed here:

[Link to COVID-19 Cases in the Bedford Public Schools This Week](#)

Please be sure to report any positive COVID-19 test results to the absence line or your school's covid email address listed above.

#### Safety Check Testing

It is important to note that our COVID-19 safety check testing protocol is up and running weekly at each school. We urge everyone to sign up to be part of our protective testing program.

Next week we will continue with the single swab collection, we are placing 2 swabs in a "pool" to be processed by the lab, and if the pool detects a positive result, the school nurses will retest those 2 individuals with rapid antigen tests, and if positive families will be notified and instructed

on isolation procedures. If the rapid test is negative and the individual is symptom-free, they will be retested the following day, and if still negative and symptom-free, they can resume weekly COVID-19 testing.

Pooled Testing Results Week of January 31, 2022

BHS 100 students, 57 staff, 0 positive cases

JGMS 226 students, 52 staff, 0 positive cases

Lane 339 students, 49 staff 0 positive cases

Davis 295 students, 43 staff, 2 positive cases

If you have not done so already and would like to you can sign up for testing at

[BPS COVID-19 Testing Sign Up Link](#)

By signing up for testing you provide an additional layer of protection for your child, your family, and our schools. I cannot urge you strongly enough to participate in this free service.

#### COVID Case Updates

Please check the link below to review current and past cases of COVID-19 cases within our school community. Thank you to our school nurses who have been continuing to update the case numbers daily. From Friday, January 28, 2022, to Thursday, February 3, 2022, we have had a total of 47 cases reported. Please note that these numbers have been reported on the [Bedford COVID-19 Dashboard](#). Our case information to date is broken out by school below

Davis School had 9 cases

Lane School had 7 cases

JGMS had 3 cases

BHS had 5 cases

BPS had 24 cases

[Link to COVID-19 Cases in the Bedford Public Schools This Week](#)

#### Celebrate Lunar New Year with the Parents Diversity Council

The Bedford Parents Diversity Council and the Bedford Free Public Library will celebrate the Year of the Year of the Tiger on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 11:00 am via Zoom. The event will include musical performances, a story read by Selectboard member Bopha Malone, and more! Craft kits are now available from the library now and include all the supplies you will need for the chopsticks challenge, a spin drum, coloring pages, plus other goodies. Supplies are going fast so get them before they are gone! Please email [pdcbedorddavis@gmail.com](mailto:pdcbedorddavis@gmail.com) to RSVP and for a link to the activities.

#### Bedford Dollars for Scholars Trivia Night

Registration is now open for the Citizens Scholarship of Bedford Dollars for Scholars Trivia Night! Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. Get your team ready for some Trivia Fun. Similar to last year, this will be a virtual event, brought to you by Stump! Trivia. Virtual Doors open at 7:00 pm, the Trivia game is from 7:30 pm until 8:30 pm. Teams of 6-10 players, \$25 per person. REGISTER EARLY, as this event sells out! Proceeds go to scholarships for Bedford/Hanscom graduates who plan to continue their education. Team Captains, please register your team [HERE](#), for more information please visit the CSF of Bedford website at <http://www.bedfordma.dollarsforscholars.org>

#### Bedford Health and Human Services Department and The Massachusetts Partnership for Youth Workshop "Just Talk About It"

The Bedford Health and Human Services Department and The Massachusetts Partnership for Youth are pleased to present a workshop entitled "Just Talk About It" via Zoom on Monday, February 14th from 3-4:30 pm. The workshop is geared towards caregivers of adolescents facing mental health challenges. The goal of the program is to teach adults how to utilize inclusive and supportive strategies to identify, understand, and respond to adolescent mental health challenges. All are welcome. To view the flyer or sign up for the webinar please click [here](#). For more information please contact Mackenzie Comeau, Bedford Youth Social Worker at [mcomeau@bedfordma.gov](mailto:mcomeau@bedfordma.gov) or at 781-918-4331.

#### Reading is Uproarious

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm BedfordTV & The Happier Valley Comedy Show will present "Reading Is Uproarious!" a virtual, family-friendly, improv show with a literacy positive theme, geared towards children ages 4 to 13 and their adult caregivers. This is an interactive show where students will be introduced to the idea of improvisation. Audience participation will be used to inspire improvised games. The program is designed to engage students and enhance their love of reading, stories, and laughter. This is a free event, however donations are accepted at [BedfordTV Donations](#). For more information please navigate to [Reading is Uproarious!](#) or see the event link at [www.bedford.tv/zoom](http://www.bedford.tv/zoom).

#### February Vacation Week

Just a reminder that this year our February School Vacation Week is Monday, February 21, 2022, through Friday, February 25, 2022.

#### 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

On January 25, 2022, the Bedford School Committee voted on the 2022-2023 school year calendar. The calendar can be found on the website [here](#). The highlights include a start date for students after the Labor Day holiday on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

#### Positions available

The Bedford Public Schools are seeking substitute teachers and Special Education Teaching Assistants. If you are interested please apply at [BPS Substitutes](#) or to [BPS Special Education Teaching Assistants](#).

As always, thank you for your patience, your participation, and your continued commitment to our schools.

Stay positive, test negative!

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad  
Superintendent