



## 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 يرجى، - الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلاتك

Friday, January 22, 2021

Hello Bedford School Community,

#### Monday, January 18, 2021

Thank you to the Bedford Embraces Diversity group for hosting their annual MLK Day Breakfast. Bedford Embraces Diversity was formed in 2014 in response to local incidents of antisemitism. The grass-roots group's belief is that inclusion and acceptance should be extended to all residents, regardless of race, religion, disability, lifestyle, gender orientation, military, or cultural status. The Martin Luther King Jr. Day event is the cornerstone of the group's calendar. Thank you to all who participated in the effort to demonstrate a town wide commitment to the ideals that guided Dr. King's life.

#### Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget on Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Reminder to all Bedford Public School families that the School Committee will host a Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 during the regularly scheduled School Committee meeting time. The meeting will be held via Zoom. To review the budget proposal please visit the [The FY22 page on our website](#).

#### Flu Shot Update

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is removing the requirement for flu vaccination for attendance in childcare/preschool, primary, secondary and postsecondary education. Preliminary data show that this has been a mild flu season to date, presumably as people have received their seasonal flu vaccine and have been adhering to mask-wearing and social distancing due to COVID-19. Given the intensive Commonwealth-wide efforts regarding COVID-19 vaccination, DPH wants to alleviate the burden to obtain flu vaccination and focus on

continuing our COVID -19 vaccination efforts. DPH continues to strongly recommend that everyone age six months and older receive their seasonal flu vaccine each year.

#### DESE Updates

Last Friday we received word that DPH and DESE were offering school districts in Massachusetts an opportunity to become involved in voluntary pool testing for a six week period for no cost. The first step in this process is for us to express and interest in participating in the program, which we have done. We will have more information available soon. In the meantime if you'd like to read about the program please go to the [DESE COVID-19 Website](#) and review the 1/11/2021 6:25pm announcement or see the announcement by Governor Baker and Commission Riley at [MA Pool Testing Initiative for Schools](#) or you can go to the [DESE Pool Testing Website](#)

#### Community COVID-19 Dashboard

The Bedford Board of Health Bedford COVID-19 Dashboard contains data related to case counts, active/recovered cases, case demographics and school case data. The majority of the data on the Dashboard will be updated Monday through Friday, with some data tables and charts updated on a weekly basis. We invite you to view the new dashboard here: [www.bedfordma.gov/covid-stats](http://www.bedfordma.gov/covid-stats)

#### Teaching Assistants, Educational Assistants and Building Substitutes Needed

If you would be interested in joining the Bedford Public Schools as a teaching assistant, an educational assistant, or a building based substitute please check out our openings on our website at [BPS HR Website](#) and thank you!

#### Technology

If you have questions about this or any other technology issue or concerns please contact [tech\\_support@bedfordps.org](mailto:tech_support@bedfordps.org)

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

Wishing you continued health,

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad  
Superintendent