



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

On the Desktop - August 19, 2020

Joint Memo Clarifying Key Health and Safety Requirements for Schools

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Collaborative Leaders, and Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools,

We are issuing the attached joint memo with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide refinements and updates to previously released DESE guidance, with a particular focus on protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings. These refinements and updates are a result of questions that have come from the practical implementation of both DESE and DPH guidance, as well as from evolving medical and scientific findings related to COVID-19. We have also included highlights in the attached PowerPoint document. Please note that DESE and DPH intend to collaborate throughout the school year to conduct periodic reviews of guidance for schools and issue additional updates as necessary.

Also attached to this email is guidance on selected school health regulations from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The guidance includes information on physical examinations, school-based screenings, and immunization, including the new requirement for flu vaccination.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner