

School Reopening Update

December 7, 2020

Pillars of a Safe School Reopening

- ▶ Airflow system improvements
- ▶ Robust COVID-19 testing program
- ▶ Social distancing / reduced density
- ▶ PPE
- ▶ Health and safety protocols

Airflow Improvements - Update

- ▶ Contract execution underway for all groups
 - ▶ J.C. Cannistraro for Groups 1 and 3
 - ▶ T.J. Gallagher for Group 2
- ▶ Received initial schedules for Group 1 and 2 buildings
 - ▶ Expect schedule for Group 3 buildings by the end of the week

Airflow Improvements - Update

- ▶ Key takeaway from schedules received to date:
 - ▶ Lead time for MERV-13+ filters continues to increase
 - ▶ Completion date for schools currently estimated for March, but this could continue to shift

We are pursuing every possible approach to get highest needs students into the schools before March

Our approach

- ▶ The permanent airflow system improvements currently planned must be implemented in order to bring back as many students as possible to the schools
 - ▶ These include ventilation, filtration, humidification & disinfection
- ▶ To accommodate our highest need students in the short term, however, we can reoccupy the buildings without the humidification and disinfection improvements, but we must improve ventilation and filtration

Our approach, continued

- ▶ Filtration improvements are driving schedule delays
 - ▶ Lead time for MERV-13+ filters is growing due to supply chain issues and high demand
- ▶ So we are exploring options to:
 - Shorten the lead time for the MERV-13+ filters for the permanent central system improvements
 - Redeploy and, if necessary, procure additional portable filtration units for interim use

Next steps

- ▶ City & school staff will develop a plan to reopen at least some schools before March, taking into consideration
 - ▶ Goal of getting highest needs students into the schools as soon as possible
 - ▶ Availability of filtration units
 - ▶ Schedule for ventilation improvements
 - ▶ Availability of space in new high school, which meets our low-risk airflow targets
- ▶ Detailed update will be provided at the next School Committee meeting