

A weekly newsletter for families of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center during COVID-19 Social Distancing



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Massachusetts has seen an uptick in COVID cases and because of this Governor Baker has announced a new order regarding outdoor gatherings, which will now be limited to 50 people or less. The order of 25 people or less in an indoor space will remain in effect. Based on contact tracing reports, it is being speculated that parties, and gatherings where people are not wearing masks and/or adhering to social distancing guidelines may be contributing to the numbers rising again.

This new order requires anyone attending a gathering of 10 people or more involving more than one household must wear a mask or face covering if over the age of 2. This includes private backyard parties as well. Officials will also be able to fine event hosts up to \$500 for each violation. Governor Baker has also announced they will be putting a hold on moving to the second part of phase 3 for now. This means venues such as indoor theaters and performance venues will not be opening.

ACTIVITY

Whether your child will be returning to the classroom, participating in distance learning, home-school or some hybrid we can all agree that routine and structure can be very helpful for everyone's mornings, including yours! This week we have highlighted The Mama Notes DIY clothing organizer. Your child can gain independence by picking out their clothing ahead of time for the week and organize them by day. This is also a great way to teach your child the days of the week. If you do not have access to the organizer mentioned in this resource, feel free to get creative with shoe boxes, bins, or shelves!



CovEducation

Continuing K-12 education in the US during the COVID-19 outbreak

REGISTER

DONATE

RESOURCE

As the new school year approaches amidst the pandemic you may feel concerned or anxious about your child falling behind academically, or in need of a little extra support, if you do we have just the resource for you. [CovEd.org](https://www.coved.org) is a FREE tutoring service for all kids K-12 and includes children with special needs. Students will be paired with a mentor and sessions are conducted online via video chat. Mentors speak multiple languages and are expected to provide services through the academic school year.

DBP WEEKLY NEWS

RESOURCE

BACK TO SCHOOL

This week we are highlighting the K-12 School Relative Risk Index developed to support you in making informed decisions about sending your child back to school.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO STAY SAFE AT SCHOOL

Requirements

For all students and adults

- Low community spread
- Physical distance
- Mask wearing
- Hand hygiene and disinfection
- HEPA air filtration indoors or outdoor activities

K-12 School Relative Risk Index

Assuming 6 feet of distancing at all times

Transportation to and from school	Routine classwork	Lunchtime	Arts & Humanities	Recess & Athletics
Low Walk or ride a bicycle	Low/Medium Desk-based instruction	Low/Medium Picking up prepackaged meals	Low/Medium Art Indoor	Low/Medium Outdoor playground
Low Automobile Household members only	Low/Medium Shop/Vocational-technical	Low/Medium Outdoor eating	Low/Medium Supervised clubs/Organizations	Low/Medium Outdoor non-contact sports
Medium Automobile Carpool/non-household members	Low/Medium Going to the restroom	Medium Cafeteria lunch line	High Band/Orchestra	Medium Indoor non-contact sports
High School bus	Medium Unmonitored study hall	Medium Indoor eating Classroom	High Choir	High All contact sports, indoor or outdoor
High Public transportation (Subway, bus)	Medium/High Lockers/Changing rooms between classes	Medium/High Indoor seating Cafeteria	High Drama performances	High Locker rooms

www.covid19reopen.com

Risk Reducing Actions

- Classes outdoors (e.g., using tents)
- Maximum class size of 10-15 students
- Open classroom windows
- Stagger drop-off and pick-up times
- Pod students in groups
- Switch teachers between classes, not students
- Limit shared items
- Make unused spaces classrooms (e.g., gyms and band rooms)

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SOURCES:
 CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>)
 NASEM (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/guidance-for-k-12-education-on-responding-to-covid-19>)

With the new school year approaching and COVID19 still present in our communities, many families are weighing the options of whether or not to send their children back to school, stick with online learning, or follow a hybrid model.

Boston Public Schools Welcome Centers will be open from August 17 through September 18 for telephone and in-person services.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Welcome Centers

Monday-Friday / 9:00 am-5:00 pm
August 17 - September 18

Boston Public Schools Welcome Centers are open August 17-September 18, Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm, for in-person services **by appointment only.**

To schedule an appointment for in-person or phone registration and for more information on school registration, please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/register or call 617-635-9010.

DBP WEEKLY NEWS

RESOURCES

Boston Medical Center is here to support you during this difficult time.

Check out our new resource spreadsheet, which has links to online learning, social stories, music/animal/fitness programs, live online classes and more. See the second tab for free meals and financial services throughout Massachusetts. This spreadsheet is available in multiple languages and will be continuously updated as new resources become available.

tinyurl.com/CoronaResourcesBMC

Know of something to add? Email autismprogram@bmc.org with suggestions.



Our Autism Program is hosting a monthly virtual information series for parents and caregivers. Sessions are hosted on Zoom and are run by staff & guest speakers who will cover various topics and answer parent questions. To register for the webinar series, visit:

tinyurl.com/DBPparentgroups

CLINIC

*Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics clinicians are available by phone/Zoom for telehealth visits and consultations. Please call us at **617-414-4841** if you have any questions or are in need of support. To create a free Zoom account, visit zoom.us/signup.*

OUR CLINICIANS

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information!



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