



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 30, 2020

Dear Old Colony Community:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released its “Initial Fall Reopening Guidance” on June 25, 2020. Since that time, guidance has been released on a regular basis with updates arriving regularly. In brief, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE) requires students and staff to maintain social distances of three to six feet, to wear face-masks, and to organize students by cohorts to minimize risk of exposure. The recommended cohort model is a complement to our existing vocational education structure, as our students spend their high school career with their respective program cohort of 15 or less students regardless of whether we are experiencing a pandemic.

Over the course of the past month, the Old Colony Administrative Team has worked with a group of stakeholders that included school committee members, staff, parents, students, service providers, medical professionals and a variety of administrators from neighboring districts. These workings groups assembled a comprehensive Fall Reopening Overview that was approved on July 29th by the Old Colony School Committee. [A copy of the comprehensive plan can be viewed by clicking on this link.](#)

Due to the varying comfort levels of families, we will be offering two options upon our return to school in the fall:

1. a hybrid model or;
2. a fully remote option, with the understanding that the vocational side of learning will be significantly impacted by the in-person learning being run simultaneously by vocational instructors.

We are sharing the plan today so that families have a chance to read through the information prior to two separate question and answer sessions scheduled for Monday, August 3rd via Zoom Technology. [The first session will be run on August 3rd at 10:00 a.m.](#) [A second session will be run on August 3rd at 7:00 p.m.](#) You can attend either session by clicking on the links shown. After our Administrative Team has the opportunity to address questions, we will be distributing a survey to families. **Please note that the survey must be completed and returned no later than August 7th,** so that we may appropriately prepare for food service, transportation, scheduling, technological needs, and more. Surveys will be sent via email on August 4th.

The complexities associated with the reopening of schools are extensive. **Conditions are fluid and we understand that all of our plans are subject to change.** The comfort levels of our students and families vary significantly. We have been discussing our fall reopening for months and continue to keep the well-being of our students and staff, both emotionally and physically, at the forefront of our decision making. Members of our Old Colony school community continue to express their strong desire to return to school in-person this fall. At the same time, we recognize that we may experience a resurgence of the virus, and we must prepare for the possibility that learning will be entirely remote this fall. This “2020 Old Colony Fall Reopening Overview” takes many variables into consideration and provides a comprehensive framework for what a safe return-to-school will look like. We thank our stakeholders for their contribution to this effort, and look forward to continued progress as we collaborate to shape the futures of our Old Colony students.

Sincerely,

Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director