

January 3, 2022

Dear Families and Staff,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has been enjoying some time off during this holiday season! While many of us have been relaxing and celebrating the holidays, [the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) has been making some updates to their quarantine and isolation guidelines](#). Since the updated guidelines were released earlier this week, Massachusetts Department of Public Health has adopted these new guidelines to be followed. [Please click here for a chart that outlines the new quarantine and isolation guidelines](#).

Additionally, Commissioner Riley from the Department of Education has advised that all schools will resume in-person learning starting on January 3, 2022. The state and education department will continue to monitor data and give guidance and Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech will follow that guidance as it is given.

We know the importance of keeping our students in school for in-person instruction and are committed to doing our very best to meet that interest. However, we also know that the guidance is to prepare for a very disruptive month of January due to the rising positivity cases. I ask all of us to prepare now in the event we need to implement immediate intermittent closures to classrooms and/or schools, mainly due to staffing shortages. We are hopeful that this will not be the case and our continued partnership will be critical to keeping our students and staff safe.

Any student and/or staff with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) should remain at home and if possible, get a COVID test. If the test is negative, your child may return to school after 24 hours without symptoms. If the test is positive, please contact the school and we can give further guidance. Staff should inform their direct supervisor. I know there will be questions as we navigate these new guidelines, but I am here to help. If you have any questions, please contact me at kflaherty@clarkeschools.org

Thank you again for your support as we navigate the changing guidelines and management of this disease. I am looking forward to a happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely,

Kerry Flaherty

Kerry Flaherty
Health and Safety Manager
Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech