



December Break COVID-19 Safety

12/18/20

As we approach the December school break, Newton Public Schools families are urged to follow these [holiday recommendations from Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) to help keep each other safe.

The increasing impact of COVID-19 in the City of Newton is shown in the COVID-19 data. Between November 27, 2020 and December 10, 2020, the 14-day average incidence rate of COVID-19 increased 54% from 15.3 per 100,000 to 23.6 per 100,000, and the positivity rate increased 77% from 0.75% to 1.33%. We're approaching 2,000 COVID-19 cases and have 160 deaths.

It is very important for everyone to take responsibility and do their part. Everyone is required to follow Governor Baker's orders. MDPH asks residents to:

- **Limit** in-person celebrations to household members only
- **Postpone or cancel** travel this holiday season. If you do choose to travel, be aware of and comply with Massachusetts travel order [requirements](#) (and see below)

Massachusetts Travel Order requirements:

- All visitors (even children) entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, from higher risk states must complete a [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) and quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Massachusetts or produce a negative COVID-19 **PCR test result** that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day.
 - This order applies even "just for the day" for holiday celebrations or a ski trip.
 - Owning/renting a home in another state is NOT an exception.
 - This order applies to all US states except Hawaii as of 12/17/20 – this can change. Check the website for a full, up-to-date, list of COVID risk designation per state at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states->
 - If your COVID-19 test result has not been received prior to arriving in Massachusetts, visitors, and residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result.
 - **Children age 10 and younger who travel must follow the quarantine or testing plan their parent elects (testing option or 14-day quarantine option).** Testing for children, 10 years and younger, who are traveling with an adult from their household is not required.

[Here are some lower risk ways to celebrate December holidays.](#)

Returning to school in January:

- If you traveled, you must have received your negative COVID-19 test results before returning to school. Or, for children 10 and younger, their parents have received negative PCR results, unless the whole family is quarantining for 14 days.
- Complete your Daily Health Assessment every morning and stay home to seek medical advice if you have any symptoms and inform your child's School Nurse.
- Contact your child's School Nurse if you have questions.