



City of Westfield, Massachusetts

Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Westfield Health Department

August 12, 2020

Re: Clarification regarding school safety

I would like to take the opportunity to clarify my recommendation to the School Committee with respect to returning to school this Fall.

In the interest of keeping students and staff safe from the spread of COVID-19, I recommended on August 10, 2020 that students do not return to school in any capacity for the remainder of the calendar year.

This recommendation was made primarily to avoid the congregate setting that the presence of students would create in the buildings.

This statement was not intended to preclude staff from being present in school to tend to remote learning or other tasks that can be performed while adhering to the Governor's orders relative to workplaces.

I feel comfortable with the schools being able to provide a safe work environment for staff provided students are not in attendance.

Please feel free to contact me for any questions or additional clarification.

Joseph Rouse

Director of Public Health

Westfield Health Department