



Chelsea Public Schools
Almi G. Abeyta, Ed.D.
Superintendent

May 17, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Today, we are very excited to welcome many students back to Chelsea High School! We know that many of our students, families, and staff have been eager to get back to in-person teaching and learning. For those who have opted to return, we have extensive health and safety protocols in place, including a mask requirement, physical distancing, frequent cleaning and sanitizing, symptom screening, regular testing, contact tracing, and more. These steps taken together, along with the low rates of community transmission, are making our schools safe to reopen.

We are also encouraged that so many of our older students have chosen to get the COVID-19 vaccine, now that the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children ages 12 and older. The availability of the vaccine is the single most important development in bringing an end to the pandemic. I understand that some families continue to have concerns about getting the vaccine. Everyone must make their own decision. However, scientific evidence indicates that COVID-19 vaccines are proven to be safe and effective. Millions of people in the United States have received the vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. For more information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, visit the [Centers for Disease Control website](#).

For anyone who is interested in getting the vaccine for a student aged 12 or older, the City of Chelsea is holding walk-in clinics on weekends at the Chelsea Senior Center at 10 Riley Way (across from City Hall and behind the fire station). No appointment is needed. Interested residents can arrive at the Senior Center on Fridays from 3:00PM to 7:00PM and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00AM-5:00PM. Parents and guardians do not need to be present when their child receives the vaccine. However, students must bring a screening form and written consent form signed by their parent. These forms are available at the link below. Hard copies are also available at Chelsea City Hall during regular business hours, [HTTPS://WWW.CHELSEAMA.GOV/CORONAVIRUS-UPDATES/PAGES/COVID-19-VACCINATION](https://www.chelseama.gov/coronavirus-updates/pages/covid-19-vaccination).

You may have read [a story in yesterday's Boston Globe](#), which highlighted Chelsea as an example of districts where high school students are divided about whether or not to return to in-person learning. We know that this trend is not unique to Chelsea, and we understand the many reasons why families may choose to remain in remote learning. We are committed to supporting students wherever they choose to learn, and we continue to respect the decisions that each family makes.

To all those students who returned to school today, welcome back! We are delighted to have you back in our buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Almi G. Abeyta".

Dr. Almi G. Abeyta
Superintendent