



Dear Members of the Governor's Community,

I am pleased to provide you with our [Framework for a Phased Reopening of School](#) and our [new reopening website](#). Our plan represents what we believe to be the safest possible way to bring our students back for in-person instruction.

Unfortunately, the world around us continues to shift as the COVID-19 pandemic surges in locations across the country and around the world. We will continue to monitor the local, national, and international contexts as we move closer to September, recognizing that our plans may need to adapt as circumstances around us change.

In particular, let me update you on two significant developments. First of all, we contracted with Tempus, a leading national diagnostic testing company, to do our mass testing and get us results within a reasonable time period of 2-4 days, and we purchased a rapid antigen testing machine, Sofia 2, from Quidel, which would allow us to immediately screen symptomatic students on campus. In recent days both companies have indicated that their ability to deliver on these contracts is in jeopardy:

- Tempus has indicated that they may not be able to provide us with test results in a reasonable period of time. In fact, the turnaround time could be as long as 10 days, which would limit our ability to conduct timely contact tracing and, where necessary, to put students into quarantine or isolation.
- Quidel has informed us that decisions at the national level to reallocate the Sofia 2 rapid testing equipment to nursing homes could result in a significant delay in our ability to get the equipment we need.

We will continue to try to resolve these issues in a way that permits us to open school in September in Phase 3 (as outlined in the [Framework for a Phased Reopening document](#) referenced above), but if we cannot resolve them and open school safely, we may have to shift to Phase 2 or Phase 1. We expect to be able to provide you with an update on testing, and the impact of testing on the opening of school, no later than Friday, August 21.



I had hoped that we would have more certainty around our ability to bring students back to campus on September 14, and we will continue to do everything in our power to get as many of our students back to campus as soon as we can. Being able to do that, however, hinges on our ability to ensure that we have plans in place to keep our community healthy, and having access to testing is central to that plan.

As we have done with past reopening updates, we will host a [webinar](#) on Thursday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. (EDT). When you register for the webinar, you will be able to submit questions about the opening plan that you would like to address, and there will be an opportunity to submit questions during the webinar as well.

[Register for Webinar](#)

While this year will be fundamentally different in so many ways, I still cannot wait to be together with you all again in Byfield.

My best,

Peter

Peter H. Quimby, Ph.D. '85, P'14

Head of School

