Back to School Planning
During the Pandemic

Introduction
The start of the school year is usually a time of anticipation and new beginnings. This year, the idea of going back to school is challenging due to many uncertainties. Parents must cope with barriers related to different venues for learning, safety, and juggling work and parenting. Below are some resources to help parents navigate these uncertain times. The EAP is available to help at 866-724-4327.

General Back to School Resources and Supports

- CDC-Back to School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers
- Ed Navigator-Planning for Back to School in a Pandemic

Massachusetts and City of Boston Information
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and local communities are in the process of finalizing plans for the Fall. Please check these links for the latest updates as they become available.

- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education information on School Re-opening and Educational Resources.
- Boston Public Schools - Information on School Re-opening and Educational Resources.

Please check your local town/city school websites for back to school information outside of Boston.
Mass General Brigham

Back to School Support for Parents

Managing Parenthood and Your Career Series:

Preparing for the New School Year

Co-sponsored by the Center for Faculty Development and the Office for Women’s Careers Wednesday, September 2, at noon. Attend via Zoom

This 60 minute session will discuss how to prepare for the new school year (whether to virtual or in person classes) and the available child care opportunities. Open to all employees and staff across MGB.

Panelists:

- Elise Wulff, MEd, Program Manager for Child Services, Aspire MGH/Mass General Hospital for Children
- Martha A. McNulty, MEd, Director, Child Care Services, MGB

On-Demand McLean Webinar

Are you or your children worried about the upcoming school year?

This on-demand recording of McLean expert Dr. Macht-Greenberg addresses these concerns:

- Video - Everything You Want to Know About School and Anxiety

How Your Family Can Prepare for In-Person Learning

Here are some resources to give parents peace of mind and help kids stay safe and healthy emotionally in school

- CDC Check-List for Back to School In-Person Learning
- Psychology Today-Tips to help decrease back to school stress
How Your Family Can Prepare for In-Home Learning

Some form of remote learning is likely to be carried forward for many children this Fall. Below are some resources to help parents and children navigate this process:

- Mass General Brigham Home Learning Resource Guide for Children
- CDC Checklist Planning for Virtual or At-Home Learning
- Massachusetts Advocates for Children-Support for Parents and Students with Special Education Needs and Disabilities
- Federation for Children with Special Needs-COVID 19 Resources
- Resources & Tools: COVID-19-National Center for Learning Disabilities
- WGBH Distance Learning Center-Trusted Digital Resources for Families and Teachers
- Ted Talks to Watch with Kids
- MIT Hub-Resources for K-12 Students-Learning about Artificial Intelligence
- Ellen Braaten, PhD, MGH-Advocating for your Child’s Learning

How Families Can Meet Child Care Needs

Child Care Resources Offered, Sponsored and Subsidized by Mass General Brigham. Full information is available in the Coronavirus FAQs on AskmyHR about the following services:

- Bright Horizons
  - In-center and at-home care
- Care.com
  - In-home care
- Other vendors (SitterCity and College Nannies in-home care)
- Discounted tutoring, test prep enrichment classes and virtual or in-home learning pods.

Link to Mass General Brigham EAP Child Care Resources

How College Students Can Navigate the Fall Semester

Whether college students are returning to campus or engaging in remote learning, the “new normal” will present certain challenges. Below are some helpful resources for college students in the coming semester.

- McLean On-demand Video: Dr. Caitlin Nevins Offers Support to College Student During the Pandemic
- LA Times-Going Back to College During a Pandemic