SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Schools Update Town Hall

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Superintendent Mary Skipper

September 21, 2020

Language Interpretation

Para escuchar en español, siga estas instrucciones:

1. En los controles de su reunión / seminario web, haga clic en "Interpretación".
2. Haga clic en "español".
3. (Opcional) Para escuchar solo en español, haga clic en "Silenciar audio original".

Para ouvir em português, siga estas instruções:

1. Na sua tabela de controle da reunião ou webinar, clique em "Interpretation".
2. Clique em "Portuguese".
3. (Opcional) Para ouvir apenas em português, clique em Mute Original Audio" (Silenciar áudio original).

Si w vle tande an kreyòl Ayisyen swi v enstriksyon sa yo:

1. Nan kontwòl yo klike sou 'interpretation'.
2. Klike sou 'French' men mou n wap tande a ap pale kreyòl.
3. Ou kapab mete odio original sa sou 'mute original audio' pou w kapab tande Kreyòl Ayisyen sèlman.

Presenters & Advisors

Mayor Joe Curtatone

Superintendent Mary Skipper

Sam Scarpino | Emergent Epidemics Lab, Northeastern University

Omar Boukili | Incident Commander, City Covid-19 Incident Command System

Doug Kress | Director of Health and Human Services | City of Somerville

Rich Raiche| Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management

Jeff Curley| Chief of Staff | SPS

Panelists for Q&A

Carrie Normand | School Committee Chair | Somerville Public Schools

Chad Mazza | Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment | SPS

Jessica Boston-Davis | Director for Equity and Excellence | SPS

Sarah Davila | Director of English Language Learner Programs and Family & Community Outreach| SPS

Liz Doncaster | Student Services Director| SPS

Susana Hernandez Morgan | Chief Communications and Development Officer | SPS

Lisa Kuh | Early Education Director | SPS

Sebastian LaGambina | Principal, Somerville High School

Christine Trevisone | Director of Special Education | SPS

Maintaining Focus on Health and Safety

Planning for a Safe and Sustainable Reopening

- Somerville has acted with community safety in mind throughout this pandemic. Safety is also a top priority for reopening schools and creating a stable learning environment.
- We have continued to monitor the evolving landscape of COVID-19 at every step in our reopening process.
- We've moved cautiously, introducing extra safeguards into every Phase of reopening.
- Complexity of the virus and its impact, as well as the complexity of all mitigation efforts demands a thorough and well-planned approach.
- We continue to work diligently to prepare for a safe, sustainable reopening of schools.
- Tonight, we will provide promised updates on mitigation efforts for our school buildings, our plans for systemwide COVID-19 testing, and other updates.
- We fully recognize how challenging this is for families. We ask for your continued support and partnership in addressing this health crisis.

Welcome back students and families!

Key Things to Know as we Start the School Year

- **What the learning day looks like:** Students will be receiving a combination of live online instruction and connected independent work. School day will be the regular school hours, following the district school year calendar. Cohort assignments determine in-person schedule once we are able to start transitioning into our buildings.
- **Technology and Access:** We've been working to ensure that every student has a dedicated device and an Internet connection to support their learning. Contact your school Principal if your student still needs a Chromebook or if you need assistance with Internet access.
- **Materials and Resources:** Elementary schools are preparing materials and supplies for students to pick up. Schools will be reaching out. The plan is to provide materials on a quarterly basis.
- **FREE Breakfast and Lunch:** Grab and Go meals will be available for pickup daily at all elementary schools from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Enrichment Programming:** In-person **programming** for PK-8 students to allow opportunity for social interaction; offered by Community Schools and Parks & Recreation

Working toward Phased Reopening

- All students (except those who opted for the LMS Full Remote Model using a Learning Management System) begin the 2020-21 school year in Hybrid Full-Remote (HFR), working with SPS educators.
- When conditions allow, families will have the opportunity to choose between two paths within the Phased Hybrid Learning Model, or they can choose to transition to the Full Remote Learning Model (LMS):
  - Phased Hybrid Learning Model
    - Hybrid Full-Remote (HFR)
    - Hybrid In-Person (HIP) when conditions allow
  - Full Remote Learning Model (LMS) - for more information, contact Asst. Superintendent Chad Mazza (cmazza@k12.somerville.ma.us)
- Quarterly (every 45 days), families have the option to switch models

Phased Return Student and Staff Levels*

PHASE	POPULATION	STUDENTS	TEACHING STAFF	SUPPORT STAFF	SUB-TOTALS	AGGREGATE
Phase 2a	SPED High Needs (PK-8)	195	70	20	285	285
Phase 2b	ELL Levels 1 & 2 (PK-8)	400	40	10	450	735
Phase 3a	Pre-K & K	650	80	10	740	1475
Phase 3b	Grades 1 & 2	750	50	10	810	2285
Phase 4a	Grades 3 & 4	650	40	10	700	2985
Phase 4b	Grades 5 & 6	700	40	10	750	3735
Phase 4c	Grades 7 & 8	600	40	10	650	4385

*Total population of students, does not account for students choosing other educational models

Planning for a Safe, Sustainable Reopening

Internal Factors

External Factors

- Community Transmission Rates
- Positive percentage in school
- Evolving science and research
- Availability of material and human resources

December 1, 2020

Earliest date SPS can begin to move into phased implementation of Hybrid In-Person instruction for prioritized student populations (Phase 2) as buildings become available.

External Factors

Indicators for Moving to Later Phases

Somerville's team of science and medical experts have identified research-based metrics and situational factors, locally and regionally, that will inform whether it is safe to reopen schools.

- 3-, 7-, and 14-day rolling average rate positive case rates *(percent of total tests)*
- Daily positive cases *(number of cases)*
- Testing rates
- Testing capacity
- Sewer wastewater testing
- Contact tracing capacity and quality
- The direction and velocity of trends
- Evolving science and research
- Guidance of experts: epidemiologists, virologists, etc.

Specific Indicators Include:

*Indicators (Average Daily Incidence)	Lower Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Rate per 100,000	< 4	4 < X < 8	> 8
Percentage of Positives	< 1%	1% < X < 5%	> 5%
Test Result Turnaround	< 24hrs	24hrs < X < 48hrs	> 48hrs

Internal Factors

In-Person Social Distancing and Other Safety Measures In Place

Doing everything we can to create **SAFE** environments for students and staff when they return

School & Classroom Setup

- Desks & tables spaced **6 feet apart** - ✓
- **Sinks or sanitizer stations** in classrooms - ✓
- **Virus shields** placed in some high traffic areas - ✓
- **Isolation room** in every school - ✓
- **In-building protocols** - ✓

Air Quality

- Assess air quality/circulation in all schools - ✓
- Upgrading ventilation and filtration
- Investing in air filters and outdoor tents - ✓

Enhanced Cleaning

- Plan for enhanced **daily cleaning & sanitizing** - ✓
- DPW purchased more **electrostatic sprayers** to disinfect buildings - ✓

Doing everything we can to create **SAFE** environments for students and staff when they return

Masks, Face Shields, Gloves

- SPS has also ordered **270,000 masks that meet BOH health and safety guidelines; 24,000 pairs of gloves; and hundreds of face shields - ✓**

Develop Testing Protocols

- **Develop protocols and identify provider to: - ✓**
  - Conduct baseline testing coupled with ongoing routine virus testing for students and staff
  - Provide results within 24 - 48 hours
  - Provide contact-tracing for positive cases

Bus Transportation

- Significantly limited; One student per row on bus

Tented Outdoor Spaces

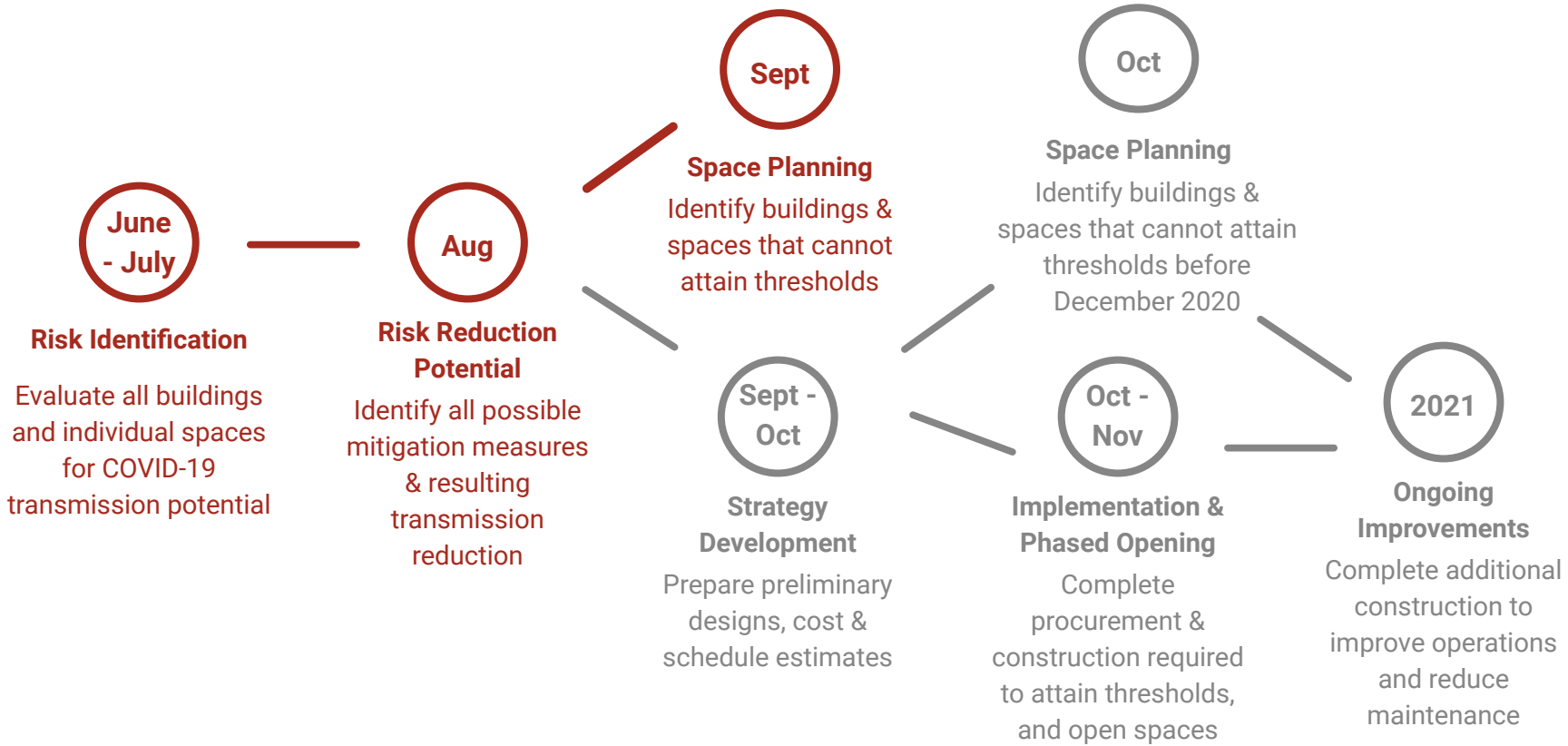
- For recreation/engagement

Internal Factors

Building Assessments

- Research that informed the assessments
  - Surface transmission of COVID-19
  - Aerosol transmission of COVID-19
- Assessments evaluate each space based on Massachusetts building code and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) guidance
  - Scores take into account transmission factors:
    - Air change rates (ventilation)
    - Air filtration efficiency
    - Humidity control

Building Assessments - Risk Management



Building Assessments - Primary Audit

The first high level audit is complete

- Fitzemeyer & Tocci Associates, DPW, IAM, and SPS reviewed all building systems and space uses
  - Building-level analysis
  - Room-level analysis
- Assessed risks, identified all potential improvements

Building Assessments - Primary Audit

Key questions answered:

- Do any spaces currently achieve our thresholds?
- If not, can improvements be made to achieve our thresholds?

Understanding Primary Airborne Audit Risk Assessment - Scoring System

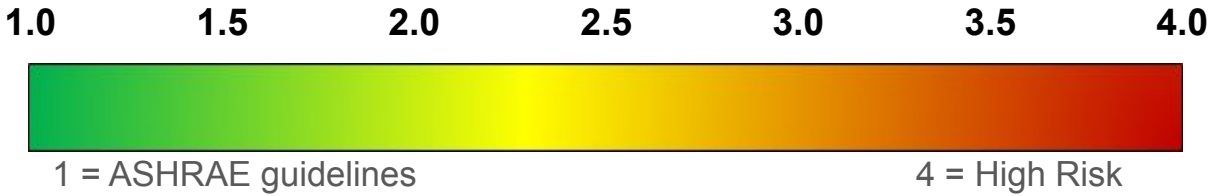
1.00	1.99	2.00	2.99	3.00	4.00
Low Risk		**Moderate Risk**		**High Risk**	
Air handling consistent with ASHRAE guidelines for aerosol spread prevention		Some air handling, but not to reliable levels for aerosol spread prevention		Little to no air handling, allowing aerosol concentration	
1.00 to 1.99 = Assessment score for opening a building / space for student use					

Primary Airborne Audit Risk Assessment

- School buildings will need to achieve a “Low Risk” assessment score (between 1.0 and 1.99) before being cleared to reopen
- Existing school buildings scores range from 2.02 to 3.42 (median 2.57)
- Potential improvements range from 1.20 to 2.14 (median 1.54)

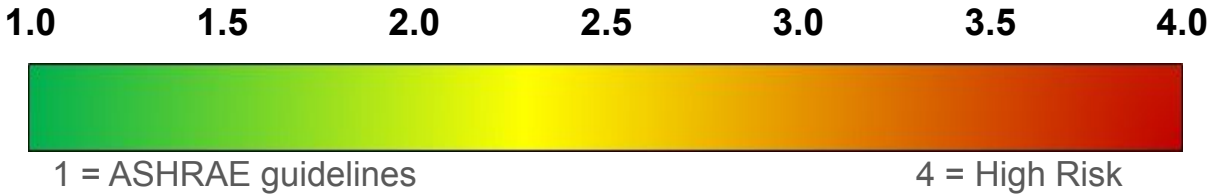
Building Assessments - Primary Airborne Audit

	Existing		Potential		
Building	**Score**	**Risk**	**Score**	**Risk**	**Building system summary**
Argenziano	2.09	Moderate Risk	1.2	Low Risk	Has good central air system to work with to increase filtration and/or ventilation but does not currently have any humidification.
Brown	3.67	High Risk	2.01	Moderate Risk	No ventilation or central HVAC system. Only ventilation is via operable windows. Existing in space cooling units do not include any filtration.



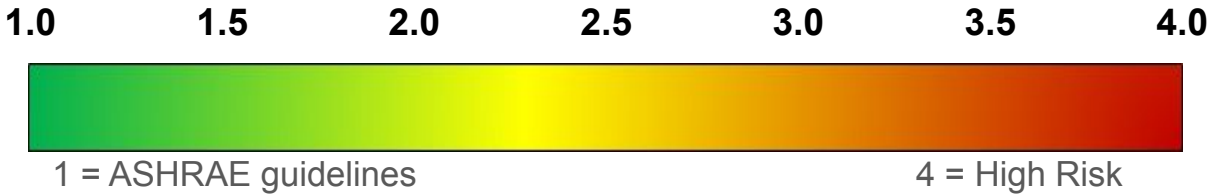
Building Assessments - Primary Airborne Audit

	Existing		Potential		
Building	**Score**	**Risk**	**Score**	**Risk**	**Building system summary**
Capuano	2.57	Moderate Risk	1.29	Low Risk	Has good central air system to work with to increase filtration and/or ventilation but does not currently have any humidification.
East Somerville	2.32	Moderate Risk	1.75	Low Risk	Has good central air system to work with to increase filtration and/or ventilation but does not currently have any humidification.



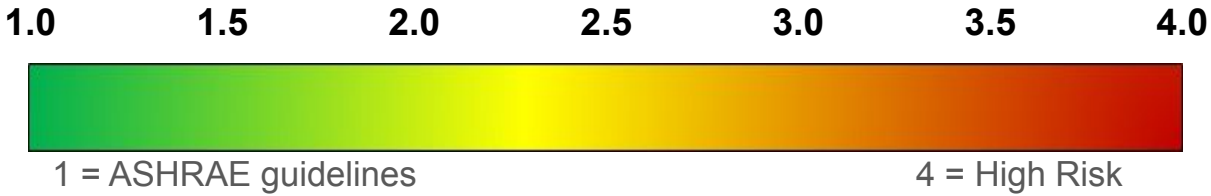
Building Assessments - Primary Airborne Audit

	Existing		Potential		
Building	**Score**	**Risk**	**Score**	**Risk**	**Building system summary**
Healey	2.32	Moderate Risk	1.56	Low Risk	Has good single zone systems in place that can be modified to increase filtration and/or ventilation but there is no existing humidification.
Kennedy School	2.69	Moderate Risk	1.36	Low Risk	Most spaces are served by systems that include filtration and ventilation, which can be improved. Corridors have minimal airflow. No humidification.



Building Assessments - Primary Airborne Audit

	Existing		Potential		
Building	**Score**	**Risk**	**Score**	**Risk**	**Building system summary**
West Somerville	2.53	Moderate Risk	1.52	Low Risk	Includes both central system and single zone systems that can be modified to increase filtration and/or ventilation but there is no existing humidification.
Winter Hill	2.46	Moderate Risk	1.45	Low Risk	Most spaces are served by systems that include filtration and ventilation, which can be improved but there is no humidification. Airflow pattern in classrooms can be improved as well.



Building Assessments - Primary Airborne Audit

	Existing		Potential		
Building	**Score**	**Risk**	**Score**	**Risk**	**Building system summary**
Edgerly (CTE, NWFC)	3.08	High Risk	2.14	Moderate Risk	No ventilation or central HVAC system. Only ventilation is via operable windows.
Existing High School (1895, 1929)	3.42	High Risk	N/A	High Risk	No ventilation or central HVAC system. Only ventilation is via operable windows.
High School Mods	2.02	Moderate Risk	1.49	Low Risk	Each room served by ventilation units that include filtration and that can be improved.
New High School (2020)	N/A	N/A	1.2	Low Risk	New centralized system

Building Assessments - Primary Audit

Conclusions:

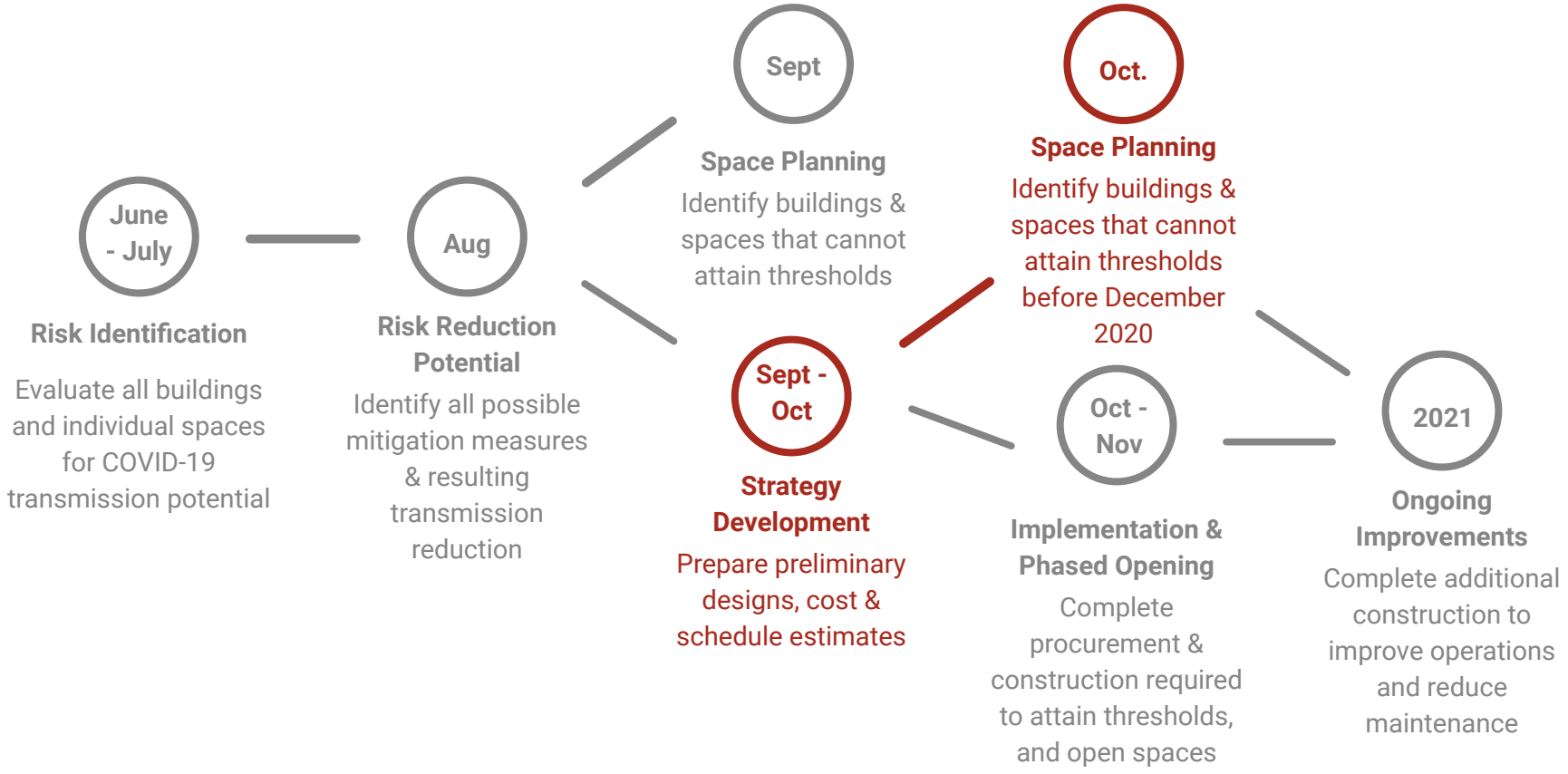
- No buildings currently achieve our thresholds
- Occupancy of old High School, the Brown School and CTE/NWFC areas at Edgerly are not feasible
- For buildings that can't be brought up to safety standards, we are pursuing alternate locations for in-person learning
- Combination centralized system improvements and in-room solutions viable for all other spaces

Building Assessments - Detailed Evaluation

Key questions to be answered:

- When can building improvements be complete?
- How to best integrate the construction timeline with the phased reopening plan?

Building Assessments - Risk Management



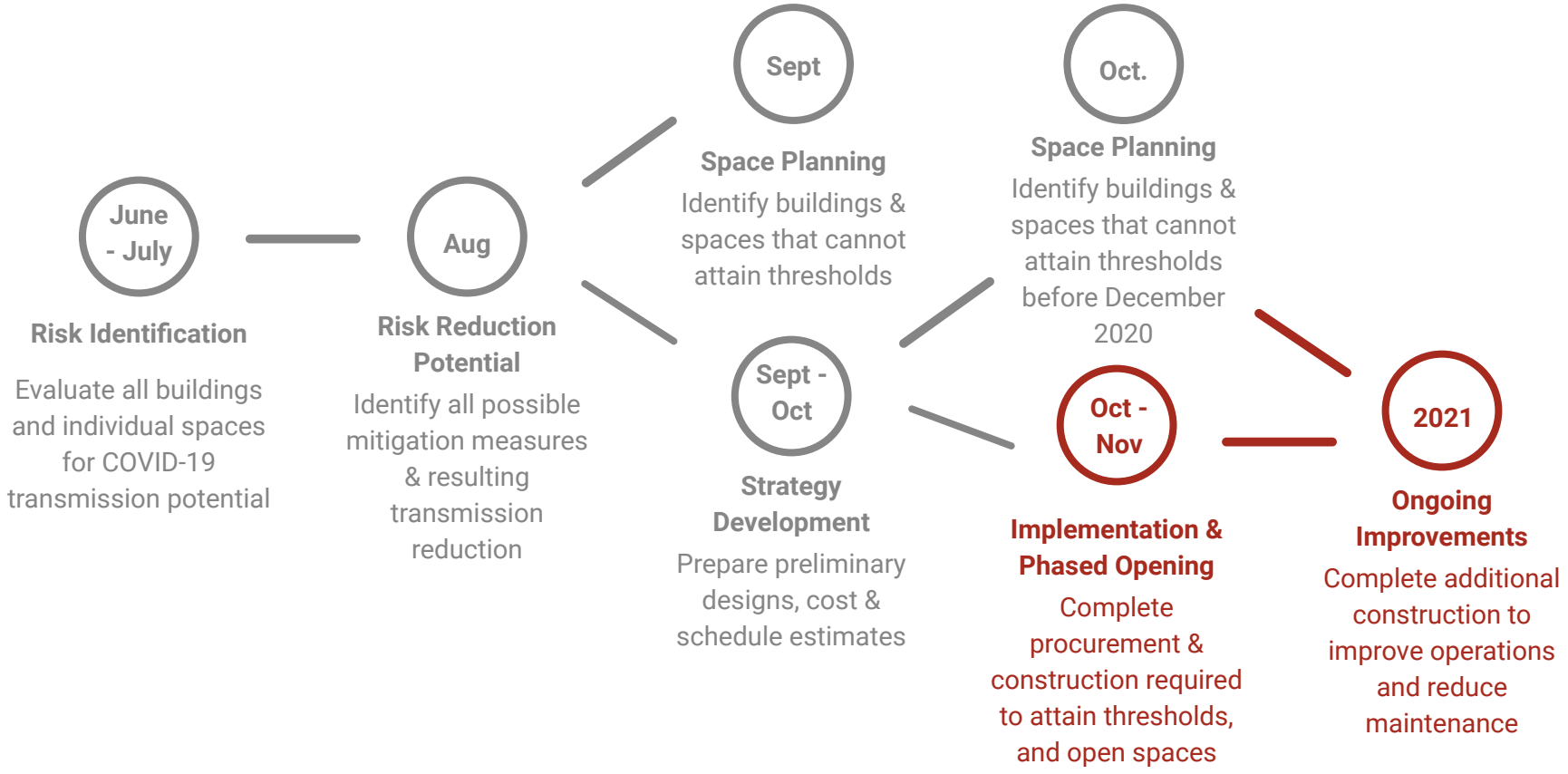
Building Assessments - Improvement Plan

- Align air handling with needs
  - Nurses' stations, classrooms, low-use areas
  - Define construction schedule for each space - vastly different for each building and some spaces
- Align improvements and occupancy
  - Evaluate how prioritized school populations could utilize available spaces
  - Sequence mitigation with phased reopening plan

Building Assessments - Approach and Timeline

- June - Define scope, hire consultant
- July - Site visits, assess COVID-19 transmission risk
- August - Identify full range of possible mitigation measures, and refine to short list of measures for each building/space, estimate reduction in risk
- September-October - Prepare preliminary designs, schedule & cost estimates
- October - Refine plan to achieve schedule & risk reduction goals, develop procurement strategy. Begin work on Phase 2 - 4 spaces.
- October-November - Undertake COVID-19 improvements
- December 1 - Projected start of phased opening as buildings are ready

Building Assessments - Risk Management




Internal Factors
Routine COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing Protocols Operational

Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 Testing

With the City's support, the Board of Health is actively working to issue an order mandating the seasonal flu vaccine and COVID-19 testing protocol for all students and staff.

Flu Vaccine

- The City and SPS will be hosting free seasonal flu vaccine clinics
- Or contact your medical provider
- Or visit local pharmacy

Routine COVID-19 Testing

- Adopting protocol that will adapt to school building reopening plan to provide students, staff, and close contacts with readily accessible COVID-19 testing on a routine basis.

Benefits of routine COVID-19 testing in school

- Identify infected individuals who are asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic to prevent further spread in school and community
- Rule out COVID-19 for individuals who present COVID-19-like symptoms, allowing earlier return to school
- Baseline and frequent testing helps to evaluate the effectiveness of social distancing procedures and inform school decisions moving forward

Testing Protocol - Provider

The Broad Institute & Third Party Provider

- Full-service testing is expected to include:
  - Sample collection, testing, and rapid result delivery
  - Data communications/platform
  - Provide testing materials
  - Delivery to the Broad Institute lab

Testing Details

Location:

- Screening tests will be administered at school buildings when they open
- Tests will be administered by hired medical professionals (EMTs, Nurse Assistants)

Schedule:

- Baseline tests administered within 72 hours before entry to buildings
- Routine COVID-19 testing

Testing Protocol - Contact Tracing

- When a positive student case is identified, Health & Human Services/Public Health Nurse will begin contact-tracing in partnership with School Nurse
- For staff who test positive, we will follow state protocol for contact tracing; notification will be to their local Board of Health

Next Updates and More Information:

Schools Update Town Halls

- Late October
- Mid November

ResiStat Town Halls

- A series of pandemic-related town halls during fall/winter 2020
- Sign up for City alerts at www.somervillema.gov/alerts

Questions?

Submit in the Q&A chat or comment on YouTube Live

Thank you!

- Sign up for phone, text, and email alerts at **somervillema.gov/alerts**
- Current COVID-19 information: **somervillema.gov/covid19**
- Apply for help from or donate to the Somerville CARES Fund at **somervillema.gov/SomervilleCares**
- **Community testing: 617-665-2928**
- SPS Back to School Updates: **somerville.k12.ma.us/back-school-2020**