



Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Colchester Families,

Many of you have asked about the District's plans for a possible full, in-person reopening. The administrative team is currently reviewing all of the data and options available and we will make a formal announcement on Monday, October 5th. As you may recall from our reopening plan, the district will reevaluate the data every four weeks to determine the best model to both ensure safety and to provide a continuity of instruction. As I stated before, the best education is when a student is working directly in-person with a qualified teacher, but current circumstances require us to balance education with safety for both students and staff.

Public Health Officials: Flu Vaccine More Important Than Ever

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review CDC guidelines here: [Who Needs a Flu Vaccine and When](#). In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please wear a mask, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, avoid crowds, wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, and stay home if you're sick. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit [Connecticut COVID-19 Response](#). For general questions, call 2-1-1. Together, we can lessen the impact on our community.

Attendance for Voluntary At-Home Learners

Early last week we provided instruction to families of voluntary at-home learners on how to take attendance via the Parent Portal in PowerSchool. We understand that connectivity and slow Internet speeds can impact a family's ability to enter attendance each day. We know that families are making every effort to track their student's attendance, and will be flexible if attendance is submitted when connectivity improves.

District Response to a Positive Case

Please review this graphic for the District's response to identification of a COVID-19 school community member: [Process for Covid19 Case Flyer](#). If it has been determined that there is wide-spread COVID-19 transmission in a school, we will implement a complete 14-day shutdown of that school only and move all staff and students to

remote learning. The entire district will only close if we have been informed by an outside agency that there is community-wide transmission. At that point CPS will close for 14 days and re-evaluate at the 10 day mark based on the best information available at that time. In addition, we will be using the following chart to assist in our decision making: [CHD CSDA DPH Flow chart of suspected COVID-19.pdf](#). It is my hope that all in our community will follow this guidance as well so that we can continue to provide an in-person continuity of instruction.

Daily Student/Staff Health Screener

UPDATED PROTOCOL: The daily health screener must be completed every day by Hybrid learners, whether in school or at home during distance learning days. This allows our nursing staff and Chatham Public Health to more accurately track potential spread of COVID-19. The results of the screener are confidential and will only be viewed by the school nurse. Please opt-in to our SchoolMessenger system for important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more: **Send a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to the number 67587.**

Parent Resources and Guides

- **Reopening:** Resources, forms, and district created guides related to the reopening of schools: [Reopening Resources for Parent](#) (from page on the district website under the Teaching & Learning tab).
- **Technology:** If parents are having difficulty with Chromebooks or connectivity to the Internet, please resource the [Chromebook and Connectivity Troubleshooting Guide for Parents](#).
- **Attendance for Voluntary At-Home Learners:** This video clarifies attendance expectations and protocol for students participating in the voluntary at-home learning model: [Attendance Voluntary At-home Learners \(Parents\).webm](#)

Mask Updates

- **Mask Delivery:** The Connecticut State Department of Education will be distributing masks to school districts. The first delivery will be of adult masks intended for Grades 7-12. We expect child-size masks shortly thereafter. Distribution details are forthcoming.
- **Group Size and Mask Requirements:** Here is a memo from the Office of Early Childhood to address consistent rules for early childhood care in both child care settings and public schools: [OEC Coronavirus Memo #29 Group Size and Mask Requirements as part of a system of protections against COVID-19](#).

Updated Q&A Document

Please visit our frequently asked questions: [CPS Parent FAQ](#)

Have a question or concern?

- **EMAILS**

General questions: covid19@colchesterct.org

Tech questions: techhelp@colchesterct.org

BOE questions: boardquestions@colchesterct.org

For the most current update on COVID-19, please visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Please take care and stay safe and healthy.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Burt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Burt
Superintendent