



Colchester Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Faculty and Families,

A number of you have reached out to me regarding yesterday's communication as it was alarming to see so many positive cases along with five classrooms being put into quarantine. I was also alarmed by the high number of cases yesterday and understand why many questioned why the District remains in its current instructional model. We continue to advocate for this model, full-in at the elementary level and hybrid at the secondary level, because state and local public health officials have confirmed that a significant majority of the cases we report are due to transmission outside of the school setting. Also, we know if we move the District, or a school, to remote learning that this creates daycare issues for many families. A return to remote learning can also lead to more transmission as children interact with other families or extended family members. Our mitigation strategies are working, and are in line with current recommendations from public health officials. We will continue to monitor transmission sources and the spread of the new, more contagious COVID strain to inform any changes to our instructional model.

I am writing to you today to inform you that the following members of CPS have tested positive for COVID-19 and are isolating:

- **One student member of JJIS**
- **Three student members of BA**

As soon as the District was made aware of these confirmed diagnoses, Colchester Public Schools (CPS) notified the Chatham Health District (CHD) to assess the risk of transmission. Based on the guidance provided by the CHD, the District has taken the following steps below to keep our community safe.

1) Isolation: The student members of our community who have tested positive for COVID-19 have followed medical recommendations to isolate. Please understand that more specific information will not be shared due to privacy concerns.

2) Contact Tracing: In all cases the students were not in school for the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms and/or testing and had no additional school-based contacts. CHD will conduct community-based contact tracing.

3) Continuity of Education: No change to our current instructional model.

The District will continue to monitor this situation and will use sound decision making based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and CHD to maintain safety and continue instruction. Please feel free to contact us for specific questions or concerns.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership as we work to keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey E. Burt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey E. Burt