



Colchester Public Schools

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Vaccine Update

The rate of vaccination in Colchester is currently close to 40% for first doses. While this is great news, we are nowhere near herd immunity, and public health officials are urging us to continue being cautious by wearing masks and social distancing. Being vigilant, especially with the rise in cases of the COVID-19 variant, ensures that we can continue to have students benefit from in-person learning. For the latest guidance from the Department of Public Health, see this alert: [DPH Health Alert: Continue Wearing Masks and Social Distancing](#)

Travel Update***

Please see the current travel advisory for Connecticut: [Travel Advisory for Connecticut During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Colchester Public Schools, as always, will adhere to the guidelines issued by the State. Highlights of the new guidance include:

- If you are traveling, get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before your trip. Make sure you have the results of your negative test before you travel. Keep a copy of your results with you during travel; you might be asked for them.
- Do not travel if you test positive. Immediately isolate yourself, and follow public health recommendations.
- Get tested again with a viral test 3-5 days after your trip and stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if your test is negative. If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

For the full set of the latest travel guidelines from the CDC, visit here: [Travel During COVID-19](#).

***Please do not report to school after the April vacation if you have been in contact with a COVID+ case or are experiencing COVID-like symptoms.

Bacon Academy

District and building administration is working with staff on the possibility of students returning full time in May. Our process will include a building-based committee, review of the parent survey results, and a full staff discussion to address comments and concerns. A parent workshop and Q&A session will be held on Tuesday, April 6th at 6PM to detail any changes to the instructional model.

William J. Johnston Middle School

WJMS will open fully on April 19th. While there has been concern about April break, our mitigation strategies were effective in keeping schools open despite an increase in cases after the winter break. We

are confident that our established procedures, followed at all schools, will allow us to open WJMS for full in-person learning.

Standardized Testing

On October 15, 2020, the CT State Dept. of Education issued the [Assessment and Accountability 2020-21](#) memo to school districts outlining the requirement to administer all standardized tests during the 2020-21 academic year. As a result, **all Colchester students in grades 3-8 will be required to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and all students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be required to take the NGSS Science Assessment.** Your student's school will provide specific guidance on testing in the near future; however, all families should be aware that testing will occur in-person on student issued devices. Remote testing will only be administered on student issued devices for Voluntary At-home Learners. A secure browser has been uploaded onto all student issued devices for the purpose of test security. If you have any questions, please contact your school's assistant principal.

Updated Student Promotion/Retention Regulation

Colchester Public School (CPS) staff recognize the broad impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students and their families, as well as the more specific impact it has had on each student's access to instruction. For some students, the pandemic has impacted their attendance to school and/or their academic growth to the extent that they may not be adequately prepared for the next grade level. As an extension of the BOE Policy, [this Retention Regulation](#) provides greater detail as to the identification of students who will be considered for retention in the 2020/21 academic year, as well as the available support aimed at assisting identified students reach grade level proficiency prior to being retained.

2021-2022 Education Budget Process

On March 30th, The Superintendent presented a revised 2021-2022 budget, which the BOE approved. April 6th is the Budget Public Hearing to present the BOE and Town budgets. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is on May 11th. All meetings are open to the public and can be accessed here: [BoardDocs public access](#).

School Year Calendar

- **REMINDER: Friday, April 9th will be an Early Release Day for All Schools:** Friday, April 9th will be an early release day for all schools to avoid conflicts with the closed vaccination clinic for CPS staff. The revised calendar is linked below. The early release schedule is as follows:

PreK AM:	10:35am
PreK PM:	Cancelled
Grades K-5:	12:55pm
Grades 6-8:	11:40pm
Grades 9-12:	11:55pm

2020-2021 School Year Calendar - Update

[Revised School Year 2020-2021 Calendar](#)

Upcoming Week: April 5 - 9

Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate School:

- Monday: CES/JJIS full in-person learning
- Tuesday: CES/JJIS full in-person learning
- **Wednesday: CES/JJIS in-person, shortened day**
- Thursday: CES/JJIS full in-person learning

- *Friday: CES/JJIS in-person, shortened day*

William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy:

- Monday & Tuesday: Group 1 in-person
- Wednesday: All remote, shortened day
- Thursday: Group 2 in-person
- *Friday: Group 2 in-person, shortened day*

Have a question or concern?

- **EMAILS**
 - Budget questions: budget@colchesterct.org
 - General questions: covid19@colchesterct.org
 - Tech questions: techhelp@colchesterct.org
 - BOE questions: boardquestions@colchesterct.org

Frequently asked questions: [CPS Parent FAQ](#). For the most current update on COVID-19, please visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Information on the impact of COVID-19 in our community can be found here: [CT COVID-19-Data-Tracker](#).

Best Regards,



Jeffrey Burt, Superintendent