



Colchester Public Schools

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December 18, 2020

Dear Colchester Families,

Our students have now benefited from weeks of in-person learning because of vigilance in following CDC guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We already see the positive impact on our youngest learners. In addition, we've successfully begun synchronous learning for older students. Our schools are doing a tremendous job of continually improving the delivery of high-quality instruction. In a season of giving thanks, I am grateful for the commitment of everyone in our community to do what's best for our students.

Free COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing will be held in the Citizens Bank Parking lot located at 111 Norwich Ave., Colchester on Monday, December 21st and Monday, December 28th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Travel during the Holidays

Celebrating virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice for this winter's holidays. As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the CDC has released new guidelines here: [Winter Holidays](#).

COVID-19 Testing Requirements

Colchester Public Schools would like to remind our school community of a few important COVID-19 testing requirements:

- The school district can only accept negative COVID-19 results from a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test for travel to states on the travel advisory list.
- If you choose to travel, please remember to review the **State's Travel Advisory**
- If an individual is a close contact to someone who has COVID-19 then they will need to quarantine for 14 days regardless of whether or not there is a negative test. [Home Quarantine Guidance](#)
- Please inform the school nurses or administration if traveling to a state on the advisory list. Students can participate in at-home online learning until tests results are received and reported to the school by parents.

New CDC Guidelines on Self-Quarantining

The CDC and the CT-DPH have recently sent out modified requirements for self-quarantining of close contacts from 14 to 10 days. We are still working with our local DPH and medical advisor to determine if the district should also change its protocols. We will have more information after the winter break.

State Testing for 2020-21 School Year

On October 15, 2020, the CSDE informed districts that all state summative assessments are expected to be administered during the 2020-21 school year (see list below). Moreover, as outlined in the Addendum One of the Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together guidance, “students participating in remote learning programming will be expected to access statewide assessments in-person, unless the assessments are available remotely.” On the eve of state testing, schools will begin to inform families how tests will be proctored once further guidance is provided by the State.

- Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Next Generation Science Standards Assessments
- Connecticut SAT School Day
- Connecticut Alternate Assessment for Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Connecticut Alternative Science Assessment
- LAS Links English Language Proficiency Assessment
- Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment
- Kindergarten Inventory

Upcoming Week: December 21st - 23rd

Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate School

- [CES AND JJIS ADJUSTED CALENDAR](#)
 - Monday & Tuesday - CES/JJIS full in-person learning
 - Wednesday - CES/JJIS in-person, shortened day
 - Thursday & Friday - Winter Break

William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy

- [WJMS AND BACON ADJUSTED CALENDAR](#)
 - Monday, December 21: Group 1 in-person
 - Tuesday, December 22: Group 2 in-person
 - Wednesday, December 23: All remote, shortened day
 - Thursday & Friday - Winter Break

Have a question or concern?

- **EMAILS**
 - 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

