



# *Colchester Public Schools*

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## **Wednesday, January 20 Update**

A number of parents have reached out to me to ask if the District will take any action for next Wednesday as a result of publicized potential disruptions at state capitols. In working with the First Selectman, who has been in contact with the Governor's office, we have determined that no preventative measures are necessary at this time. However, if the situation changes between now and Tuesday, January 19 it is a possibility that the District will close on Wednesday, January 20 and switch to a fully remote day (with an early release) for all grades. While this closure is unlikely, I wanted to give time to families for an opportunity to prepare as necessary.

## **COVID-19 Update**

The Town of Colchester experienced a large increase in positive COVID-19 cases last week. While most of these incidences were in the community at large, our schools did experience a moderate increase as well. However, contact tracing shows that a significant majority of those were due to transmission outside of the school setting. If we see an uptick in in-school transmission, or if positive cases in the town continue to increase, in the coming weeks we may decide to return to fully remote instruction. Please consider the needs of your family should we need to return to remote learning. We are cautious at this time and believe that our mitigation strategies will allow us to continue in our current model. We will continue to work very closely with Chatham Public Health to monitor the COVID-19 cases in our school community and in the community of Colchester.

## **Instructional Model**

At this time, the District will continue in our current instructional model of full, in-person instruction at the elementary level and the hybrid model of instruction at the secondary level for the next four weeks, at which time we will review the current data and any available information on the vaccine rollout. We do not anticipate any change to this model unless either wide-spread, in-school transmission is evident and greater restrictions are necessary, or we are advised that vaccination levels are adequate for full, in-person instruction at all levels.

For information on the COVID-19 cases in CPS, visit our website: [COVID-19 Data for Colchester Public Schools](#).

## **CIAC Update**

The CIAC determined at their meeting this week that the winter season may begin no sooner than January 19, 2020, unless determined otherwise. The risk level of sports (low, moderate, high) that will be able to play will be based on DPH guidance. CIAC's moderate risk winter sports are basketball, ice hockey, gymnastics, and indoor track. CIAC's high risk winter sports are wrestling, competitive cheer, and competitive dance. CIAC's risk classifications align with DPH's and the NFHS. Per CIAC, assuming community metrics continue an appropriate downward trend and athletic activities are not

impacting in-person learning, interscholastic in-state competitions may begin no earlier than February 8, 2021. For higher risk sports (competitive cheer, competitive dance, wrestling), DPH does not recommend any activities beyond small group conditioning and non-contact skill building for the duration of the winter season. For more information, visit the CIAC website: [CIAC Winter Sports Update](#). In addition, Mr. Peel will send a separate message with more details in the coming days.

#### **Updated 2020-2021 School Year Calendars**

- [2020-2021 School Year Calendar](#)
- [CES and JJIS Calendar](#)
- [WJMS and Bacon Academy Cohort Calendar](#)

#### **Upcoming Week: January 18-22**

#### **Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate School**

- **Monday, January 18th: NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)**
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: CES/JJIS full in-person learning

#### **William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy**

- **Monday, January 18th: NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)**
- Tuesday and Wednesday: Group 1 in-person
- Thursday and Friday: Group 2 in-person

#### **Have a question or concern?**

- **EMAILS**  
General questions: [covid19@colchesterct.org](mailto:covid19@colchesterct.org)  
Tech questions: [techhelp@colchesterct.org](mailto:techhelp@colchesterct.org)  
BOE questions: [boardquestions@colchesterct.org](mailto:boardquestions@colchesterct.org)

Frequently asked questions: [CPS Parent FAQ](#). For the most current update on COVID-19, please visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://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