



Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

On March 13, 2020 we closed schools for what was originally intended to be for a month. Twelve months later we are still coping with this global pandemic and its effects. We know that the impact on our students has been significant on their academic, social, emotional, mental and physical well being. While relief from the immediate impact of the crisis seems to be finally in reach, with a decrease in the number of cases and an increase in the number of community members vaccinated, our task of recovery is just beginning and will last for years to come. We have been planning for this recovery since December and many of our plans will be shared with families in the coming weeks. Once again, I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of all of our staff members over the past year and know that their expertise will accelerate the recovery of our students in the future.

COVID-19 Case Update

Total COVID-19 cases in our school community and the Town continue to drop (we do not have updated data at this time). We are monitoring a few communities throughout the state that are seeing an increase in cases and an increase in the percentage of cases attributed to the COVID variants. As the Governor has stated, it is hoped that the rate of vaccination will outpace the potential rise in cases.

Instructional Model Review - William J. Johnston Middle School

WJMS students will return to full-time, in-person learning beginning April 19th. Next week, the District will hold a WJMS parent Q&A workshop for more information.

Bacon Academy Graduation: June 19th

On March 9th, the BOE voted to set the date for Bacon Academy's Graduation on Saturday, June 19th. Governor Lamont announced changes to the state's pandemic restrictions and we will continue to review these changes as we approach the time of our traditional spring and end-of-year events, including graduation. Right now we have contingency plans for both a "drive-through" graduation and a ceremony on the football field depending upon the state guidance in June. [Governor Lamont Announces Plans To Ease Some COVID-19 Restrictions in Connecticut](#)

Vaccinations Update

The second closed vaccine clinic for staff is Friday, March 12th. This clinic will use the Moderna vaccination, so a second shot will be necessary and is scheduled for Friday, April 9. To avoid conflicts for staff we will most likely have an early release day on 4/9 and this will be confirmed next week. Here are some helpful links to vaccine information:

- [Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Portal](#)
- [Governor Lamont Announces Plans To Ease Some COVID-19 Restrictions in Connecticut](#)
- [CDC Issues First Set of Guidelines on How Fully Vaccinated People Can Visit Safely with Others | CDC Online Newsroom](#)

- NY Times Article on Vaccine Side-effects: [Women Report Worse Side Effects After a Covid Vaccine](#)

2021-2022 Education Budget Process

On March 9th, the Superintendent presented his proposed 2021-2022 budget to the Board of Education. You may view his presentation here: [Budget presentation to BOE March 2021](#). Dates for two upcoming BOE budget workshops are: Tuesday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 23rd at 6:00 via ZOOM video conference calling. All meetings are open to the public and can be accessed here: [BoardDocs public access](#).

For more information on the education budget process, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit our website: [Education Budget](#). Have a question about the education budget? Please email budget@colchesterct.org.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar

[Calendars - School Year and School Arrival/Dismissal](#)

Upcoming Week: March 15-19

Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate School

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

William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy

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

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