



# Colchester Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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March 5, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

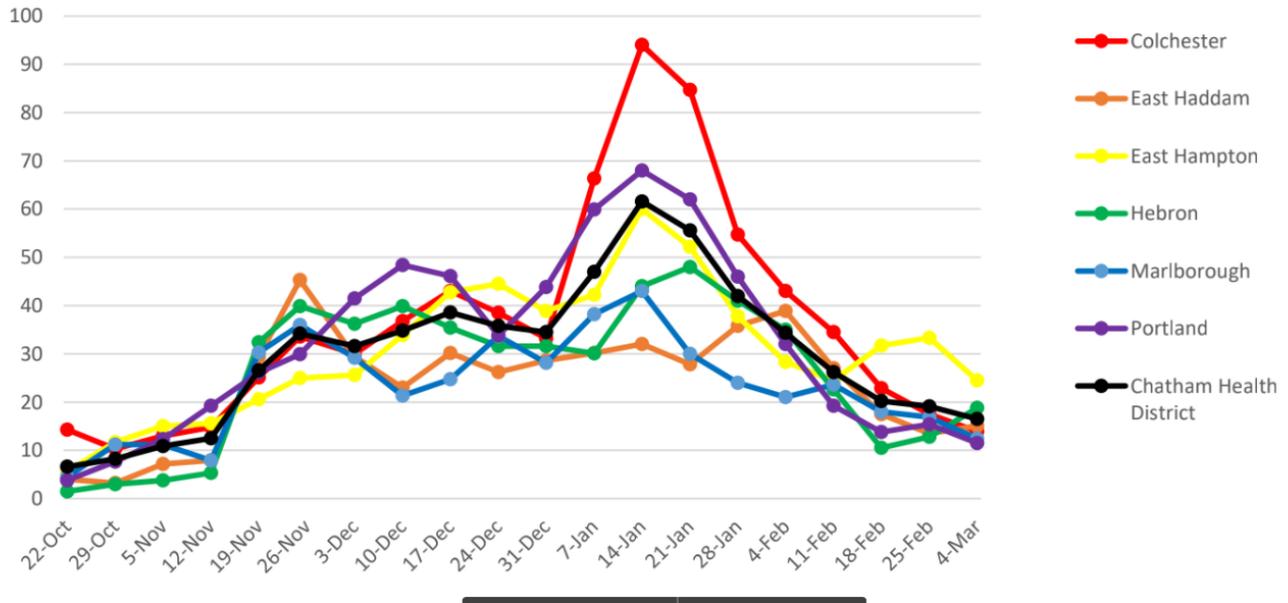
## 2021-2022 Budget Presentation to BOE

The Superintendent will present the proposed 2021-2022 school year budget to the Board of Education on Tuesday, March 9th at 6:00PM. Meeting access: [BoardDocs public access](#)

## COVID-19 Case Update

Total COVID-19 cases in our school community and the Town continue to drop. The rate of vaccination in Colchester is currently 19.4% (first shot).

**Average Daily Case Rate (# of cases /100,000 population)**



## Instructional Model Review

It is likely, with the downward trend in COVID-19 cases, that WJMS students will return to full-time, in-person learning in April. Prior to this instructional model change, the District will hold a WJMS parent Q&A workshop the week of March 15th for more information.

We will not be changing our model at Bacon Academy due to an inability to enact many of the mitigation strategies that both the CDC and CT-DPH are still recommending. Unlike WJMS, we cannot create small cohorts of students and any positive case would most likely result in continual disruptions to in-person learning through the need to isolate large numbers of students. In addition, the physical square footage of classrooms at BA is smaller and cannot allow for minimal physical distancing. Finally, lunch waves are smaller now allowing for six feet of physical distancing. If we returned to full time, the lunch waves would be much larger and may also result in contact tracing

difficulties. We will continue to review our model every few weeks to make sure we are addressing any changes to regulations.

### **Springtime Events**

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. [Governor Lamont Announces Plans To Ease Some COVID-19 Restrictions in Connecticut](#)

### **Vaccinations Update**

Chatham Public Health has scheduled closed clinics in the next two weeks for CPS staff who are eligible for vaccination, with the first clinic happening tomorrow. It is likely that all CPS staff will have full vaccinations by the end of April break.

### **2020-2021 School Year Calendar**

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

### **Upcoming Week: March 8-12**

- **FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- **MONDAY, MARCH 15TH IS NOW A SCHOOL DAY**

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

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: CES/JJIS full in-person learning
- Friday: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

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

- Monday & Tuesday: Group 1 in-person
- Wednesday & Thursday: Group 2 in-person
- Friday: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

### **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