



Colchester Public Schools

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 202
Colchester, CT 06415

Jeffrey E. Burt
Superintendent of Schools

Phone (860) 537-7208
Fax (860) 537-1252
jburt@colchesterct.org

November 6, 2020

Dear Colchester Families,

On November 12th, the District will move forward with our full, in-person learning plan ([Colchester Public School Access Plan October 2020 v2](#)) for grades PreK through 5. Please refer to the letter sent on October 23rd for details of the reopening plan: [CPS Instructional Model Update](#).

A crucial part of this plan's success is how families and individuals use mitigation strategies while at home, at work, and out in the community. We have been successful in preventing transmissions within the school setting, but we have had to isolate students, staff, and classes as a result of a transmission outside of school. Please help us by staying vigilant during this stressful time. I know that this is a big request as the holidays approach; however, we will not be able to keep our schools open without everyone's help. It is important to note that each new case puts a burden on our resources (teaching staff and substitutes) and inevitably may result in school closures if we do not see a lowering of the cases being reported and a reduction in the numbers needing to be quarantined. We need the Colchester community to help the District in doing what you can at home to support our efforts.

November 2020: Adjusted Calendars

Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate School

- [CES AND JJIS ADJUSTED CALENDAR](#)
 - Monday, November 9th: Cohort A in-person; Cohort B remote
 - Tuesday, November 10th: Cohort B in-person; Cohort A remote
 - Wednesday, November 11th: NO SCHOOL (Veterans Day observed)
 - Thursday, November 12th: Start of CES/JJIS full in-person learning
 - Friday, November 13th: CES/JJIS full in-person learning

William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy

- [WJJMS AND BACON ADJUSTED CALENDAR](#)
 - Monday, November 9th: Cohort A in-person; Cohort B remote
 - Tuesday, November 10th: Cohort A in-person; Cohort B remote
 - Wednesday, November 11th: NO SCHOOL (Veterans Day observed)
 - Thursday, November 12th: Cohort B in-person; Cohort A remote
 - Friday, November 13th: Cohort B in-person; Cohort A remote

Communications from Schools

- [WJJMS Letter to parents about beginning live streaming](#)
- [CES Return to Full-Time Letter PK-2 2020](#)
- [JJIS November Parent Update](#)

Revised Voluntary At-Home Learner Program Description

The Voluntary At-Home Learner (VAHL) Program Description has been revised to provide greater support to VAHL students beginning on November 12, 2020 ([Revised VAHL Program Description](#)). In preparation for the transition to a more robust VAHL program, parents of VAHL students should understand that some services previously provided to VAHL students may be reduced over the course of next week. If any parents prefer to transition their student in or out of the VAHL program, they should refer to the section in the [Revised VAHL Program Description](#) titled, *Procedure for Opting into/out of the Voluntary At-Home Learning Program*, which includes the **form** for opting out.

Travel Out of State

With holidays approaching please make sure you refer to the [Official Guidance from CT on Traveling out of State](#) if you plan on traveling over the next few months. We are requesting that students isolate for 14 days if they travel out of state and do not get tested according to the state guidelines.

CIAC Winter Sports Update

The CIAC anticipates an update by DPH on winter sports very soon. A meeting with the CSMS Sports Medicine Committee is scheduled for next week to review updated DPH sport guidance along with the CIAC winter sports draft plan. Upon completion of that meeting, the CIAC will have a final winter sports draft proposal for consideration by the CIAC Board of Control. Upon approval of its winter sports plan, each member school will need some time to review that document with its local health department. Therefore, **the CIAC is postponing the November 21st winter sports start date**. The CIAC Board of Control will consider a new start date for winter sports at its November 17th board meeting.

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