



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

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Dear Faculty and Families,

We have seen a significant increase in the number of positive cases over the past three weeks, with over 65 cases in just that window. A majority of the cases are elementary students and I am encouraging all families to continue with mitigation strategies at home as best as possible. Currently, only about 20% of children ages 5 to 11 have had at least one vaccination shot in Colchester.

I am writing to you today to inform you that the following members of CPS have tested positive for COVID-19 since our last communication on Tuesday, 11/23, and are isolating:

- **Ten student members of CES**
- **Fourteen student members of JJIS**
- **Two student members of WJJMS**
- **Three student members of BA**
- **Three staff members of CES**
- **One staff member of JJIS**
- **One staff member of BA**

As soon as the District was made aware of these confirmed diagnoses, Colchester Public Schools (CPS) notified the Chatham Health District (CHD) to assess the risk of transmission. Based on the guidance provided by the CHD, the District has taken the following steps below to keep our community safe.

1) Isolation: The staff and student members of our community who have tested positive for COVID-19 have followed medical recommendations to isolate. Please understand that more specific information will not be shared due to privacy concerns.

2) Contact Tracing: CPS staff and CHD have already reached out to those who came into contact with the individuals who have tested positive and have asked them to self-isolate or to Screen & Stay if applicable. CHD will conduct community-based contact tracing as necessary.

3) Continuity of Education: At this point, there is no change to our current instructional model but we are monitoring the situation daily. One entire class at CES was put on remote learning due to the number of students quarantining.

To view the total number of staff and students in isolation see the following webpage: [CPS COVID-19 Update Webpage](#)

The District will continue to monitor this situation and will use sound decision-making based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and CHD to maintain safety and continue instruction. Please feel free to contact us with specific questions or concerns.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership as we work to keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey E. Burt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey E. Burt