



Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Families and Caregivers,

As Colchester Public Schools prepares to welcome students back, we continue to refine our procedures for ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment that considers the needs of all in our community. Everything we do must be in compliance with all directives from the Centers for Disease Control, the CT State Department of Public Health, and local health officials at Chatham Health. However, a constantly shifting and evolving pandemic has taught us that we must remain flexible to adjust according to the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our community, state, and nation.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Please see this guide for all protocols relating to masks, vaccines, quarantine, cohorting, and instruction: [Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan](#)

REMINDER: First Day of School for all Students is Thursday, September 2nd.

Calendar

Printable version: [2021-2022 School Year Calendar](#). School year schedules, hours, and dismissal information can be found on the website: [Calendars - School Year and School Arrival/Dismissal](#).

NOTE: *No district is permitted to have remote inclement weather days for the 2021-22 school year.*

Third Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine Available

Please see this notice from CDPH: [Third Dose of Vaccine](#)

Effective immediately, Chatham Health District will offer third doses of COVID-19 vaccine at all of our community-based and in-office vaccine clinics in accordance with CDC and DPH recommendations. Patients will be required to sign an attestation form indicating that they are

eligible for the third dose of vaccine as a person who is moderately or severely immunocompromised but will not be required to provide any medical records or physician notes as proof. Currently, Chatham Health District only offers the vaccines manufactured by Moderna - which is authorized for a third dose, and Johnson & Johnson - which is not currently authorized for an additional dose. Chatham Health District is partnering with Walgreens and Community Health Center at many community-based clinics in order to offer Pfizer vaccine to our residents.

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together — Fall 2021

Please see this important update from the CSDE: [Fall 2021 Mitigation Guidance](#).

M&J Bus Message to Families

With all the changes taking place this school year we wanted to reach out directly to all the families we serve here in Colchester. We want to reinforce to you that our main goal is to keep all students safe as we transport them to and from school. With that in mind, we want you to know what we plan to do and ask for your patience as we get through the first couple of weeks. Parents are reminded to review their student's bus pick-up/drop-off times and request changes completing the Transportation form in the Parent Portal by noon on 8/26. Requests for changes made after 8/26 will not go into effect until 9/13.

- To keep students on buses the least amount of time, we will not cross students if your bus travels both sides of the road.
- Masks are mandatory before getting on and must remain on until departing bus at school or home.
- We will have assigned seats within the first week of school in order to make loading quicker.
- Pickup and drop off times will vary during the first couple of weeks.
- Hand sanitizer is not allowed to be used on the buses due to allergies.
- Please make sure your student(s) understand the electronic use policy.
- Buses will travel with some or all windows open based on weather conditions. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately.

Meals

For School Year 2021-2022, all student meals offered will be free of charge.

CIAC Fall Sports Guidance

The guidance document can be found here: [The Connecticut Interscholastic Conference 2021 Fall Sports COVID-19 Guidance August 12, 2021](#). Vaccinations are the primary mitigation

strategy in reducing the spread of COVID-19, limiting quarantines, and maximizing opportunities to complete full regular seasons and post-season championship play.

It is important to note that many of these items may change prior to our first day of school on September 2nd. We will share any updates with you as soon as they are provided by the State.

Regards,

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

Jeffrey Burt
Superintendent of Schools