



Colchester School District

Administrative Offices, 125 Laker Lane, PO Box 27, Colchester, Vermont 05446

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March 20, 2020

Dear Colchester School Community,

Next week, the vast majority of CSD employees will be working remotely in response to the recommendations made by the Vermont Department of Health and Governor Scott. At this point, we are considering our school buildings closed except for essential employees. Please know that even though our buildings are closed, if you need us, we are here. Emailing will generally be the best way to get in touch with your school but you can always call as well. You may get someone right way or someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Based on the recommendations from the Vermont Department of Health, we cannot stress enough how important it is to practice **social distancing** as we continue to hope that school will reopen in early April. The term social distancing has been used so much that it is sometimes hard to remember what it means exactly. Distancing the people that live in your household from everyone else is the proven way stop the spread of COVID-19. That means not visiting with anyone outside your household unless you absolutely need to. This is not easy, we know. If you do need to come in contact with other people, the suggested recommended distance to keep between you is six feet. To help take away the temptation to congregate, all of our school playgrounds are closed. We still want you and your children to get outside and play but maybe instead head to one of the town's bikepaths or recreational trails. Not only do we want to do our part to flatten the curve, we simply do not have the capacity to disinfect our playground equipment daily and it can be challenging for our children to maintain the 6 feet distance between them and their friends. Overall, we just ask that you do the best that you can, and just be aware.

Our meals program is going well, we appreciate all the positive feedback we've received so far. For the safety of our employees and for the other families accessing meals, please remember to maintain the recommended social distancing standard of 6 feet. This applies when you are waiting for the bus to arrive and when you are approaching the bus to get your meal. We ask that you only come up to the bus one at a time. Thank you in advance for helping to keep this program orderly. We are committed to continuing to run the meal delivery program for as long as we possibly can during this closure. This will depend on our ability to staff the kitchen and buses, the availability of food from our vendors, and any future orders that we receive from the Vermont Department of Health or Governor Scott.

As part of Governor Scott's directive, we are currently coordinating with the state to provide childcare for essential workers with childcare needs. As part of this effort, if you have been deemed an essential worker, please complete [this form](#) to assist Let's Grow Kids in developing the regional response plan for the childcare

needs of our essential workers. Colchester currently does not have childcare established for next week but know that we and several other organizations are working on it.

Be safe, be well, practice good social distancing and remember to wash your hands!

Sincerely,

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools