



Colchester School District

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November 20, 2020

Dear CSD Families,

As we welcome our first official school vacation, just a couple of important notes to send you into the weekend with.

Travel & Gatherings

If one thing has been clear at the Governor's press conferences it's that they are pleading with Vermonters to stay home and not travel or gather with others outside of your own household this Thanksgiving holiday. The number of cases in Vermont broke another single-day record at 148 new positive cases today. If you do travel anywhere outside of Vermont, you must quarantine for 14 days after your return or you can test out of quarantine with a negative result after day 7. Doing so will help keep our schools, employees, and students safe to continue learning in-person.

District Communication of Positive COVID-19 Cases

CSD has had four confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the school year started. In all four cases, the virus was contracted out in the community and brought into the school unknowingly. The good news is, even though it was brought into the school, we have not had any reports of transmission; meaning the person who came to school with COVID-19 did not pass it onto anyone else while they were here. This shows that our mitigation strategies including things like masks, distancing, health screenings, regular handwashing, podding of classes, ample testing, and the district's quick, unified response to positive cases are working to keep our schools a safe place. Please continue to [monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19](#) and keep your child home when sick.

We want to remind families that the district will only communicate positive cases that involve school exposure, meaning the individual came to school when they were infectious. This week, we were notified of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 but had been properly quarantining at home and was not in school during their infectious period. The Vermont Department of Health confirmed there was no school exposure and no risk to anyone at the school. We are proud and thankful to this individual and their family for taking immediate

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action and following the guidance set by the Health Department which helped prevent them from exposing anyone at our schools.

Antibody Study Sign Up Reminder

Today is the LAST DAY to sign up for the UVMHC Antibody Research Study. The registration link closes at midnight tonight. The study is open to all students and employees who attend school in-person for at least two days per week. The goal of the study is to see how many children and school staff may have already been infected by COVID-19 and to see if that number changes during the school year. They will share individual results with each participant. You can get more details emailed to you and/or sign up for the study by using the link below. **Anyone interested in participating in the study must complete all forms in the registration process by midnight tonight.**

Registration Link: <https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=7XYERCPYM4>

- An important thing to note if your student is in grades 6-12: If you signed your student up and they are in grades 6-12, they also need to sign their own form and will not be able to participate if the form isn't submitted by midnight tonight. The form was emailed directly to them. Please make sure it's completed if they would like to participate.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Thanksgiving Food Drive was an unbelievable success this year. The CHS Cares Club is blown away at the community call to action. There was so much food donated this year that organizers think they may be able to store some of it to continue to help students and families who are experiencing food insecurity, particularly during future vacation weeks when school meals aren't available. In addition to all of the individual donations, we also want to be sure to thank our local businesses who played a huge part in donating some bulk items like turkeys, eggs, butter, and some produce. Thank you, Colchester! You have warmed our hearts and filled some grateful bellies.

While Thanksgiving may look different for your family this year, I hope that you can identify the things that you're grateful for and maybe even make some new traditions. We look forward to welcoming our students back to class on Monday, November 30th.

Be well,

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools