



Colchester School District

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

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November 28, 2020

Dear CSD Families and Staff,

We hope you all enjoyed a few days off and were able to spend some quality time with your family.

On November 20, Governor Scott's Executive Order suspended multi-household social gatherings. The Order prohibits multiple households from participating in the same social gatherings, including group trips, gatherings, related ceremonies, holiday events, parties, celebrations, and sharing accommodations with anyone outside of your household. At a recent press conference, Scott mentioned that 71% of positive COVID-19 cases in Vermont were connected to social gatherings.

On November 23, the Vermont Secretary of Education issued [guidance to schools](#) related to the [Governor's Executive Order](#) and multi-household gatherings. On November 24, and again on November 27, Governor Scott spoke to the impact multi-household gatherings could have on students and staff being able to remain in person in our schools.

As you know, our primary goal is to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, faculty and staff, and as long as it is safe to do so, to keep our doors open for in person learning to the greatest extent possible. The suspension of multi-household social gatherings acts as an extension of the state's travel guidance and in turn, the Governor has asked families to quarantine if they attend or host a multi-household gathering. The guidance issued by the Agency of Education allows, but does not require, schools to include questions about multi-household gatherings on their health screening and subsequently exclude children from school if they have participated in multi-household activities until they have completed the required quarantine.

By sending your student to school, or coming to work as a CSD employee, you are verifying that you are in compliance with the Governor's order. Due to the many variable scenarios that a household may have, at this time we will not be asking our students and staff this question as part of the daily health screening. We do, however, expect families and staff to do the right thing and monitor their own activities related to multi-household gatherings and quarantine in accordance with the guidance. **The safety of all depends on every person and family following the guidance.**

Although we are not including questions about multi-household gatherings in the daily health screening, we may follow up with individual families in the event that we receive information

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that indicates gatherings occurred and quarantine should be considered. We are not placing the burden of the investigating on our teachers/support staff. If you have concerns related to the activities of a family then please do not question students, instead, communicate your concern with your building principal or nurse. They will confer and decide on the best course of action. **If concerns surface at school then the building Principal or Nurse will contact parents and/or guardians; students will not be questioned.**

As a reminder, if your child needs to quarantine for any of the following reasons, please contact your school.

- If your child is [symptomatic](#)
- If your child has been a [Close Contact](#) to a COVID-19 positive person
- If your family and child have had [Non-Essential Travel](#)
- If your family and child have been to a [Multi-Household Gathering](#)

If quarantining is necessary for any of the above reasons, you will need to complete either a 14-day quarantine or a seven-day quarantine followed by a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school. If your family needs to quarantine, be sure to let the school know what dates your student will be out of school.

We all want to keep our community safe and our students learning in person to the greatest extent possible. Thank you for doing your part every day to prevent any further spread of this virus and helping us to keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Sincerely,

Colchester School District