



# Colchester School District

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

Phone: (802) 264-5999 • [www.csdvt.org](http://www.csdvt.org) • Fax: (802) 863-4774

December 22, 2020

Dear CSD Community,

We didn't originally plan to communicate with you today (it *is* officially vacation after all!) but the Governor's press conference had some changes to the guidance that we didn't expect and we wanted to be sure to share the information if you hadn't already heard.

## Update to the Governor's Orders

At the press conference today, Governor Scott announced that for the past few days the state has logged fewer than 100 cases per day. This is an improvement and a hopeful downward trend. He thanked the hard work and sacrifices made by Vermonters and announced that he is [temporarily modifying the restrictions on gatherings](#). Starting tomorrow until January 2nd, families are able to gather with **one** other trusted household without needing to quarantine. This can be family or friends. He stressed the importance of continuing to adhere to strict protective measures to keep the downward trend of the case count. It was also suggested to get tested 7 days after the gathering at one of the [Health Department's testing sites](#). Dr. Mark Levine noted that the safest option is still to only gather with those in your immediate household but if you do get together with another household, wear masks, stand or sit far apart from each other, wash your hands often and get tested 7 days after the gathering.

The Governor also announced a modification to the outdoor recreation guidance. Vermonters are allowed to participate in [outdoor recreation activities](#) with others (snowshoeing, ice fishing, skiing, skating, etc) so long as they are masked and socially distanced.

The Governor acknowledged that he knows the current gathering restrictions are strict, even with the new modifications, but it is all in an effort to keep our case count low and to get us through the winter months. They will look at the health data throughout the holiday week and again after the new year to see if these modifications led to an uptick in cases.

## Winter Sports

At today's press conference the Governor gave the green light to begin non-contact physical training and skill work for [school-based winter sports](#). Regional superintendents (Chittenden, Franklin, and Addison Counties), have been hoping and planning for this announcement but we were unaware that it was happening today. While we are very excited to see our athletes competing again, because of the short notice, districts in our region have all agreed that we will begin the winter sports season after the new year. This will give us time to assess the health data after the break, get settled back into school, and train our coaches on the health and safety mitigation measures that will need to be implemented in their respective sports.

**Amy Minor**  
Superintendent  
of Schools

**George Trieb**  
Business & Operations  
Manager

**Carrie Lutz**  
Director of Student  
Support Services

**Gwendolyn Carmolli**  
Director of Curriculum  
& Instruction

Our plan is to use the beginning of the week of January 4 to conduct zoom meetings with athletes and parent/guardians, train our coaches on their sport's guidance, and work out the logistics with our operational staff to make sure we have all the preparations in place to ensure a safe winter sports season. In-person practices are scheduled to begin on either Thursday, January 7 or Monday, January 11, as long as the state and local health data supports it. Athletes and their families can expect to hear more from their athletic director after the first of the year with specific information regarding practice schedules for their sport.

### **Getting Tested**

At several points in today's press conference, different officials spoke about the importance of getting tested. They recommended 7 days after a gathering or whenever you feel it would be appropriate based on your activity. There are a lot of options out there to take a test - we recommend going to one of the [Health Department's testing sites](#). The tests are free, and currently, they're hearing that the turnaround for results is less than 48 hours. You can schedule your test in advance of the date using their online portal registration. As of today, they have openings as far out as January 3rd and are adding dates and locations every day. *Please do not go to a Health Department testing site if you have COVID-19 symptoms. In that case, you'd want to call your health care provider so they can refer you to testing.*

### **A Request from our Nurses**

Our nurses ask that you continue to keep them informed over the break if your child comes down with any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Something as simple as a quick email will help keep them in the loop and provide you with some support and guidance.

### **Calendar**

As a reminder, [here is a link to the CSD Calendar](#). Colchester Schools are closed on Monday, January 18 to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and students will follow their regular schedule for the rest of the week.

I wish you and your family a peaceful December break.

Be well,

Amy Minor  
Superintendent of Schools