



# Colchester School District

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January 3, 2021

Dear CSD Community,

Happy New Year! I'm sure we are all relieved to close the chapter on 2020 with hopes for a brighter year ahead. We are excited to welcome our students and staff back to school tomorrow and have just a few items to note as we prepare to get back into the swing of things.

## Returning to School on Monday

All schools and grades will be open tomorrow for in-person instruction as they were prior to the break; four days a week for elementary, the hybrid model in grades 6-12 and our virtual students learning from home.

We have enough staff to operate our buildings and we are grateful to our community for doing their part to keep our schools open for in-person learning. On a statewide level, Vermont's case growth and positivity rate are dropping and there's a slight decline in regional case growth. Governor Phil Scott said the following earlier this week.

"We hope to see a plateau or even a decline but, in the meantime, we need folks to continue paying attention and using common sense: avoid unnecessary gatherings and out of state travel, wear a mask and keep your distance. These are the best ways to help limit spread of the virus while we wait for more vaccines and get the majority of Vermonters vaccinated. This will take some time but we're on the path to better protect our most vulnerable and move closer to the end of the tunnel."

If your student will be out of school for any reason this week please let your school know. Also, please report any illnesses or symptoms from over break to your school nurse.

## What to Do if You Traveled or Gathered Over the Break

We know many families followed the guidance of the governor and health department over the break, however, for a variety of reasons some families traveled or gathered with others beyond the one household rule. If you gathered with anyone from out of state, everyone in both households must [quarantine](#) for 14 days, or 7 days followed by a negative test, as long as you do not experience symptoms. The travel policy has not changed. If you [traveled outside of Vermont, you must follow quarantine requirements](#). Quarantine means staying home and away from others. Do not go to work or school, or out to do errands or recreation. This helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 before a person knows they are sick, or if they are infected with the virus and don't have symptoms.

**Amy Minor**  
Superintendent  
of Schools

**George Trieb**  
Business & Operations  
Manager

**Carrie Lutz**  
Director of Student  
Support Services

**Gwendolyn Carmolli**  
Director of Curriculum  
& Instruction

## **Getting Tested**

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 you can schedule your test using their online portal registration. Several locations still have openings today and at the moment they can book out as far as 1/17 if you'd like to schedule one ahead of time.

## **Winter Sports**

The Governor has officially given the green light for most winter sports to start practicing with safety precautions and restrictions in place. Our athletic directors have been busy getting ready for the season to begin. CHS and CMS will be sending out more information with dates and times for the winter sports season tomorrow. Go Lakers and Cougars!

## **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.

Be well,

Amy Minor  
Superintendent of Schools