



Colchester School District

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January 22, 2021

Dear CSD Community,

If you have been monitoring your inbox, you probably noticed that the district sent out five letters in the last two weeks notifying families of positive cases throughout the district. As far as we know, each case appears to have been contracted outside of school, meaning no one passed the virus to anyone else while at school. We remain confident that our mitigation measures of things like mandatory masks, health checks, individually spaced desks and closed cafeterias, coupled with excellent family/student cooperation to stay home when sick and quarantine when directed, continue to keep our schools safe to stay open. However, it is important to recognize that the spread of this virus is still very much in our community. Health officials expect that members of our community will continue to become infected with COVID-19 until the virus is under control.

These positive cases are our family, friends, co-workers, peers, and neighbors. We hope that our Colchester community will continue to band together to offer support, empathy, and compassion to those quarantining and recovering from COVID-19. Seeing the flurry of cases in our district over a short period of time can feel startling and we want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to stay vigilant in all aspects of their home and social lives. Wear masks, avoid gatherings, and [get tested](#) if you feel you may have been exposed. There is more information on quarantining and testing below. Thank you for doing your part to help keep our doors open all the way through June.

Calendar Change for CMS & CHS

We are looking ahead to February Break and the return to school after Town Meeting Day. For hybrid students at CMS and CHS, we are changing the schedule on Thursday, March 4th to ensure that our Monday/Tuesday group of students get an in-person learning day that week. Here's what that week now looks like and you can click [here to view the full CSD Calendar](#).

Monday, March 1: No School

Tuesday, March 2: No School, Family Conferences

Wednesday, March 3: Remote Learning Day

****Thursday, March 4: CHS Lakers & CMS Blue students are IN PERSON**

Friday, March 5: CHS Champs & CMS Green students are IN PERSON

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction

Upcoming Family Night:

The next topic in our Virtual Family Night Series is anxiety. We invite you to join us next Tuesday evening, January 26th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm via Zoom to hear two of our in-house experts share strategies to help your child be in charge of their anxiety and worries. [Here's the link to join on Tuesday.](#)

The series will take a break in February and then will be back on March 23 covering Resilience and COVID-19. The final night will be held on May 25 and the topic will be Promoting Independence in Children. Mark your calendars!

Quarantine and Testing Information

As a reminder, the current order from the Governor states that if you gather with anyone outside of your household (not including childcare), everyone must [quarantine](#) for 14 days, or 7 days followed by a negative test, as long as you do not experience symptoms. Also, if you [travel 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. Testing through the Health Department is free and easy to schedule online. Click here to find out a location to [get tested](#).

History Day State Contest

The Colchester Historical Society encourages Colchester students grades 6 – 12 to participate in Vermont History Day State Contest. Colchester had a winner for the first time ever last year, and they would really love to see more participation this year. Students may participate as individuals or as teams of 2-5 students. Prizes range from \$50 - \$350, depending on the sponsor of the prize.

This year's Vermont History Day theme is "Communication in History – The Key to Understanding." There are five categories from which to choose: Documentation; Exhibit; Paper; Performance; and Website. The event will be conducted virtually again this year. Please note the registration deadline is March 1, and it's not too early to get started now. More details are available at www.vermonthistory.org/historyday.

Be well,

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools