



Colchester School District

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March 26, 2021

Dear CSD Community,

I want to openly acknowledge the fact that our district processed an unusually high number of COVID cases in the past week. It was alarming to our team, and as we learned at today's press conference, the state's overall numbers have also increased. It was announced that there were 251 new cases statewide today, along with a specific increase of cases in Chittenden County. Colchester is not alone, when speaking with other superintendents, it is clear that all of the schools in our region are seeing an uptick in school cases as well.

I would like to thank our families and employees who have kept our schools informed when they have been identified as a close contact or have had a positive case within their household. This information is so important to stop the spread of the virus. Quarantining is hard and incredibly disruptive, but when we later learn that an individual who has been in quarantine tests positive, we know that their quarantine protected others from getting the virus. By properly quarantining, no one else at the school would become infected. Whenever one of our schools is alerted of a possible case or close contact, please know that we take confidentiality very seriously and will do everything we can to process the information while protecting the individual's identity.

With all of that said, earlier today the District's COVID Response Team learned of an individual at Malletts Bay School who tested positive for COVID-19 as well as an individual at Porters Point School who has been presumed positive for COVID-19. A presumed positive means that the person had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and now has symptoms. They are awaiting test results. We have provided quarantine guidance to all of their close contacts. If you were not contacted by the district, you have not been deemed a close contact.

We also want to update the community that we received word of three additional positive cases on the CHS Boys' Hockey Team. Those students have been in quarantine and their cases have not resulted in any additional close contacts.

We will continue to work with the Health Department to keep our community safe. All of our schools are cleaned and disinfected per the Health Department's guidance and **we have been reassured that they are safe to open for in-person on Monday, March 30.** If there are any changes or updates to that plan, we will continue to communicate with you.

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction

We have come so far this year and we are asking our families, employees, and community to once again stay vigilant. We are nearing the home stretch of the school year, so please continue to follow the Health Department's advice while in school and in your personal lives; masks on faces, six-foot spaces, uncrowded places. Thank you for your support in keeping our doors open for in-person learning.

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools