



Colchester School District

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September 16, 2021

CSD Community,

I want to thank you for your continued support during another challenging year. Having all of our students back in classrooms is a wonderful and familiar feeling. However, I know many are holding their breath, hoping we can stay healthy and keep our school doors open while we get through this Delta Variant case surge.

COVID-19 Update

The district has had 14 COVID-19 cases in the three weeks we've been open. With each case, the district works with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) to contact trace and identify those who may have had close contact with the positive individual. From there, the district acts as a pathway for VDH, relaying quarantine and health information on their behalf. Both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and VDH state that fully vaccinated individuals from any environment (work, school, community event, social gathering) do not need to quarantine after an exposure, unless they're experiencing symptoms. The CDC affirms that vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19, including the Delta Variant.

When quarantining is deemed necessary by VDH, we know it can be incredibly disruptive to family and work schedules, not to mention, it can also be a bit scary knowing that your child had an exposure. This is why in Colchester, we make personal phone calls to the families of every single student identified as a close contact. It is important to us that our families have the opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, and talk through the quarantine and testing timeline specific to their child. We then send a follow-up email with all the information in writing. We want to acknowledge our teachers and support staff for all the work they are doing to support students who are quarantining.

The COVID-19 virus, and specifically the Delta Variant, is in our community and subsequently, in our schools. We are doing our best to limit the spread while still offering our students a fun, safe, and inclusive learning atmosphere. As part of our layered safety measures, we require students and staff to stay home when they are sick, masks are required in all school buildings until further notice, and we are launching our weekly [voluntary COVID-19 testing program](#) at the end of the month. Additionally, we are continuing to group/cohort elementary students who are not yet eligible for the vaccine. This makes it easier for the district to contract trace when a case has been identified and it lowers the number of students exposed.

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
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You can help too, by being vigilant and safe when out in the community. The fewer cases there are in our greater community, the fewer opportunities there will be for it to enter our schools. Continue making safe decisions and follow the recommendations of the VDH and the CDC. Thank you for being such a supportive community to live, learn, and work in.

Upcoming Early Release Day

Our first Early Release Day will be Wednesday, September 29. Lunch is served prior to dismissal and bus service is provided for students. The middle and high schools will dismiss at 12:00 and the elementary schools will dismiss at 12:45. Early Release Days allow our staff to engage in professional development which includes training, resources, and practice to ensure that our educators offer the highest quality of instruction, assessment, and curriculum for our learners. While the value of professional learning is of great importance to the district, it is also required by the Vermont Agency of Education. For a full list of conferences dates, early release days, holidays, and vacations visit www.csdvt.org/calendar.

Vaccine Clinic at CMS

Colchester School District is continuing to host school-based vaccine clinics through the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont National Guard. The next clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, also the day of our early release. If you, your child (12 years or older), or someone in your family has yet to be vaccinated, this is a great opportunity to do so.

The clinic is located at Colchester Middle School from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be offering first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine to *anyone* 12 years and older. You can walk-in or visit www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine to make an appointment. You can also call 855-722-7878. If our school-based clinics don't work for your schedule, you can also walk-in at CVS, Hannaford, Walmart, Walgreens, Price Chopper/Market 32, Rite Aid, Shaws, or Costco.

Opt-in to Receive Text Messages

The district and the schools often use text messaging to send reminders, announcements, or alerts that point to an important email. If you would like to receive text messages you must opt-in using your cellphone, they are not sent automatically. To sign up for text messages, text "yes" to 67587. Within 24 hours of sending the request, you'll receive an automated confirmation message. You can unenroll from text messages at any time by texting "stop" to 67587.

Work Opportunities at Colchester School District

We are trying to open our Ala Carte at CHS and need to fill a part-time position in our Food Service Program to do so. We're looking for someone interested in working 3 hours a day for a total of 15 hours a week. This position has the potential to increase their hours if interested. If you know someone looking for part-time work, we'd love to have them join our staff of School Lunch Heroes! Email Steve Davis, the CSD Food Service Director at steve.davis@colchestersd.org if interested.

The district is also in dire need of paraeducators. We are still looking to fill several positions at schools throughout the district. Paraeducators support students and teachers working one-to-one and/or with small groups of students with special needs. Responsibilities will vary depending on the assignment,

but typically include supervision during class, transition times, and lunch; offering students redirection as needed; data collection; consulting communications with teachers and case managers; and one-to-one student support and/or small group support. Paraeducators work just over 32 hours a week and have all holiday and school vacations off. The district offers a generous benefits package including excellent healthcare and dental plans, retirement, and tuition reimbursement. To apply, visit www.csdvt.org/jobs.

Our bus company, Mountain Transit, is also hiring. As you may have noticed, many of our bus routes and times were altered this year and that is partly because of a lack of drivers. They are offering a \$1,500 sign-on bonus and will pay for training and expenses. If you know someone who might be interested in being a CSD bus driver, have them call Mountain Transit at 893-1334 or stop by 79 Precast Rd in Milton to learn more about driver schedules, pay rates, and benefits.

Be well,

Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools