



Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Faculty and Families,

There have been some questions about whether or not the district will go remote after the winter break. The only scenario in which we would close a school would be if we did not have enough staff to open. Given that we have over 95% of our staff fully vaccinated this scenario is highly unlikely. We will continue to monitor the situation over the break and adjust as necessary.

I am writing to you today to inform you that the following members of CPS have tested positive for COVID-19 since our last communication on Friday, 12/17, and are isolating:

- **One student member of CES**
- **Four student members of JJIS**
- **One student member of WJMS**
- **Four student members of BA**
- **One staff member of JJIS**
- **One staff member of BA**

As soon as the District was made aware of these confirmed diagnoses, Colchester Public Schools (CPS) notified the Chatham Health District (CHD) to assess the risk of transmission. Based on the guidance provided by the CHD, the District has taken the following steps below to keep our community safe.

1) Isolation: The staff and student members of our community who have tested positive for COVID-19 have followed medical recommendations to isolate. Please understand that more specific information will not be shared due to privacy concerns.

2) Contact Tracing: CPS staff and CHD have already reached out to those who came into contact with the individuals who have tested positive and have asked them to self-isolate or to Screen & Stay if applicable. CHD will conduct community-based contact tracing as necessary.

3) Continuity of Education: At this point, there is no change to our current instructional model but we are monitoring the situation daily.

To view the total number of staff and students in isolation see the following webpage: [CPS COVID-19 Update Webpage](#)

The District will continue to monitor this situation and will use sound decision-making based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and CHD to maintain safety and continue instruction. Please feel free to contact us with specific questions or concerns.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership as we work to keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey E. Burt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey E. Burt