



# Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Colchester Families,

Here is our weekly school closures update. We are continuing to work with public health officials and the Town of Colchester to follow all requirements, restrictions, and social distancing practices set forth by Governor Lamont's Executive Orders and the [Centers for Disease Control](#). I want to assure you that we will continue to promote safety and wellness as our foremost concern, while laying a foundation for a safe return to school when there are still many unknown variables.

### **No School on Monday, May 25th: Memorial Day**

Students and families should not expect Meet sessions or activities to be scheduled. There will be no meals service that day.

### **Summer School**

On May 19th, Governor Lamont issued an executive order prohibiting summer school programs from starting before July 6th. He also issued an extension of the Prohibition on Large Gatherings to June 20th. You may read the full executive order here: [CT Executive Order No 7PP: Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID-19](#). We are reviewing all of the recommendations from the State and the CDC and will make a determination on summer school and extended school year (ESY) within the next week.

### **2020-21 School Year**

The administration is reviewing all recommendations from the State and CDC and has formed a re-opening task force to review all aspects of returning to school in the safest manner possible for students and staff based on those recommendations. Further details on the plan will be released in June.

### **Plan for Retrieval/Drop-Off of Student Belongings**

All schools have provided a schedule and protocol for the retrieval of student belongings and the drop-off of borrowed materials. Chromebooks and other devices will not be collected until the end of Distance Learning. Please visit these links for details on Chromebook collections and each school's protocol:

- [2020 Student Chromebook Collection - Parent Letter](#)
- [CES Personal Belongings Letter](#)
- [JJIS Personal Belongings Letter](#)
- **WJJMS:** For those parents who were unable to pick-up their students' locker items last week, WJJMS will be open next week, **Tuesday, 5/26; Wednesday, 5/27; and Friday, 5/29**, during the **hours of 8:00-10:00 a.m and 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Please come to the main entrance and a WJ staff member will meet you there to give you what was in your child's locker(s). To help facilitate this process, our staff will need to know your child's team name and then their last name. Your child's belongings have already been removed from their lockers (both main locker and gym locker) and placed in plastic bags, and then organized, by team, in the main foyer for quick retrieval and hand-off to parents. This would also be an excellent time for parents to return textbooks and completed library books to the school. Please place a sticky note on these items with your child's name and team name. Please remain at least 6 feet from all staff and any other parents waiting to pick up their child's belongings. The WJ staff would appreciate it if you would wear a mask. If you have any specific questions, please contact Annette Tamburrino, [atamburrino@colchesterct.org](mailto:atamburrino@colchesterct.org).
- [Bacon Academy Year End Update](#)

### **Food Security Program**

- **Meal serving times will be 9AM to 10:30AM at Bacon Academy, Monday - Friday.**
- There will be no meals service on Monday, May 25th: Memorial Day.
- Our meals service will continue to provide meals to any child 18 years of age and younger, regardless of which town or city the child lives or what school they attend.
- For more information on this program, visit our website: [CPS Food Security Program](#).
- Colchester Food Bank: (860) 537-7255 to schedule a pick-up time.

### **Feedback Survey**

Please talk to your student about his or her experience online, then complete the following anonymous survey: [Student/Parent Feedback: Phase III: New Learning](#). This is a **new** survey as of May 15th, and responses will be used to help us make the student/parent online learning experience even better!

### **2020-2021 Budget Process Update**

At the Board of Finance (BOF) meeting on May 19th, the Board of Education presented the revised 2020-21 budget of a 0.4% increase (down from a 2.99% increase) in light of the current economic situation. The BOF will hold two Budget Public Hearings on May 26th and May 28. Please visit the [Town's website](#) for more information on the budget process, important dates, and timeline. All documents related to budget discussions, including proposed reductions, can be found on our [Budget Webpage](#). For public access to virtual BOE meetings, visit the [Board of Education Website](#). Any questions pertaining to agenda items should be directed to [boardquestions@colchesterct.org](mailto:boardquestions@colchesterct.org). Questions must be submitted at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Have a question or concern?**

- Visit our Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **EMAILS**  
General questions: [covid19@colchesterct.org](mailto:covid19@colchesterct.org)  
Tech questions: [techhelp@colchesterct.org](mailto:techhelp@colchesterct.org)  
BOE questions: [boardquestions@colchesterct.org](mailto:boardquestions@colchesterct.org)
- For questions pertaining to a specific school, please email the teacher, administrator, or office staff of that school directly.

### **Transportation Forms**

Student transportation forms for the 2020/21 academic year are now located in the Parent Portal under the Student Transportation link. Please update your student's transportation information if there is a change from 2019/20.

### **Nurse's Update: Empowering, Protecting, and Living in the time of COVID-19**

Please visit these links for the first in a four-part series **#HealthyatHome** about empowering our community to take control of health to protect against Covid19.

- [Keep your lungs healthy and boost your immune system by choosing not to vape or smoke](#)
- [Tips for Quitting Smoking/Vaping](#)

### **William J. Johnston Middle School Promotion Ceremony**

Principal Bennett is planning a drive-through promotion in the WJMS parking lot on Friday, June 12th at 6 p.m. Details are forthcoming.

I would like to extend my appreciation for every member of our educational community. Their perseverance and flexibility during these unprecedented times make me proud to lead this District.

I hope you have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable long weekend.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Burt  
Superintendent