



Colchester Public Schools

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 202
Colchester, CT 06415

Jeffrey E. Burt
Superintendent of Schools

Phone (860) 537-7208
Fax (860) 537-1252
jburt@colchesterct.org

September 21, 2020

Dear Faculty and Families,

Effective Tuesday, September 22, 2020, **Colchester Elementary School will be closed** for in-person classes for 14 days due to a staffing shortage. There will be no instruction for CES students on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 to allow teachers to prepare for remote learning. All students will transition to remote learning beginning Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Three CES staff members currently in isolation have tested positive for COVID-19. This necessitated the quarantining of additional staff as well as some students who came in direct contact with those staff members. Due to the number of staff currently in quarantine and the nature of their responsibilities, **CES could not remain open and provide services to all students.**

All members of the school community, both staff and students, who have been in contact with staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 **have already been contacted and are quarantining.** At this time, the only confirmed positive cases are staff members and they have been in isolation since September 20, 2020. Based on extensive contact tracing by District staff and Chatham Public Health, there has been no known COVID-19 transmission to students at this time. Our response protocol and processes are outlined in these graphics:

- [Process for COVID-19 Case](#)
- [CSDE/DPH Adapt, Advance, Achieve Addendum 5 Operational Flow Chart.](#)

We will take the following steps below to keep our community safe:

1) School Closure: The school will reopen on October 5, 2020 if it is safe to do so. If your child needs an item from the school please contact school administration or you may stop by the school between 10:00-12:00 tomorrow morning.

2) Transition to Remote Learning: Remote learning for all students will begin on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. Details around remote learning will be sent on Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

3) Isolation: The members of our community who have tested positive for COVID-19 will follow medical recommendations to isolate.

4) Contact Tracing: The District will continue to contact trace as needed.

5) CES and buses will be thoroughly disinfected.

We will continue to monitor and communicate with you regarding this situation. We will use sound decision making based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Chatham Health District 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
Superintendent of Schools