

Dear Parents, Guardians and Simsbury School Staff:

As we head into the long weekend, I wanted to touch base with a few important updates. After several weeks of a declining positivity rate in the state and in our local region, we are now seeing case numbers rise again. As a result, we have an uptick in the number of our student cases this week, and a higher number of students being quarantined than there have been in some time. With spring vacation on the horizon, it is important for us to remain vigilant in our efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 with continued mitigation practices. We have had success sustaining in-person learning from the onset of the school year, and our goal is to finish the year with minimal disruptions to our learning models. I am confident, based on our past success, that this indeed will be the case.

Yesterday, superintendents across the state received updated information in two areas: youth sports and vaccine eligibility. I have included some of the state's verbiage with a link to more detailed information for you.

Updated Sport Activities Guidance

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has provided [**Updated Guidance for the Operation of Interscholastic, Youth and other Amateur Sport Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic**](#) for private, municipal, and interscholastic youth and adult sports leagues. This guidance applies to the 2021 spring sports season (March 19 – May 27). Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, this guidance may be revised prior to the end of the season. The DPH and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) will continue to monitor pandemic metrics and will issue updated guidance on or around May 17, 2021.

Vaccine Eligibility for Ages 16+

With vaccine access to individuals age 16 and older opening today, many of our high school students are now eligible. Please note that at this point in time, the only vaccine authorized for the 16-17 age group is the Pfizer vaccine. Should the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) be able to provide clinics dedicated to vaccinating this population, we will communicate directly with Simsbury High School parents.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and healthy long weekend. Thank you for your support as we march toward the last quarter of the school year.

Regards,

Matt Curtis

Superintendent of Schools