

December 18, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

As we close out the 2020 year for good, I am thankful for all this community has committed to and accomplished in supporting the needs of our students during this historic time period. The lessons learned will help shape our practices and work moving forward. I came across an interesting quote the other day that stated something to the effect of... "our past does not define us, it prepares us for the future." We have learned so much since March and, while we still have challenges to face in the coming months, we will be better equipped to move forward than when we started this journey. The brighter days ahead of us do appear to be in our sights and that sense of hope is much needed. We have come to rely on each other with a collaborative spirit that is second to none, and this will propel us forward into 2021!

As I communicated last week, we will temporarily transition to full remote learning on December 21, 22 and 23. We will resume with our full in-person model at the elementary and middle school levels, and the hybrid model at Simsbury High School on January 4.

I continue to meet weekly with the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) and area superintendents to discuss and review the area COVID data. We have updated the CT Learning Model Indicator chart on our website for the two week period ending December 12, 2020. The FVHD data for this reporting period is 27 cases per 100,000. With 24 cases per 100,000 in population in Simsbury, the recommendation from the health department continues to support our current models of instruction. Please take a moment to scroll down to the second tab [FVHD School Learning Model Indicators](#) on our Coronavirus Update webpage.

During the holiday recess, if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please contact the Farmington Valley Health District at 860-352-2333 to report the case. The FVHD Director will keep the school district informed of any cases.

We have updated our [COVID Dashboard](#) for the period of December 11 through December 17. During this time period 1 staff member and 5 student positive cases were reported. These cases include 3 students at SHS, 1 student at HJMS and 1 student at Squadron Line School. The total of 6 cases this week is a decrease from last week when the district communicated 8 positive cases.

If anyone in your home is [symptomatic for COVID-19](#) and awaiting test results, please do not send your child to in-person learning. Please keep your child home until test results are received. Additionally, please contact your school nurse as soon as possible if your child receives a positive COVID test result. Thank you again for your support and be well.

I wish you good health, happiness and peace during the holiday season and through the coming year.

Regards,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools