

December 4, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving weekend with your loved ones. I have to say it was nice to slow things down for a few days and spend time with my family. I want to again thank you all for your diligence in committing to the mitigation strategies that we have identified. They have undoubtedly been successful thus far and will continue to be a key factor for our success as we move through the next two and a half weeks prior to a well-deserved holiday break for all!

I continue to meet weekly with the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) and area superintendents to discuss and review the area COVID data. As you are aware there has been an increase in cases at the state level and in all Farmington Valley based communities in recent weeks. According to the weekly FVHD update, small gatherings/parties, occupational exposures (not only healthcare workers) and household spread are contributing to the majority of the increase in new community cases. The FVHD is working on a more detailed look at the source exposure to identify trends and I will be able to share that with you next week after I receive the information.

We have updated the CT Learning Model Indicator chart on our website for the two week period ending November 28, 2020. At 20 cases per 100,000 in population in Simsbury the recommendation from the health department continues to support our current models of instruction. The district will continue to move forward with our full in-person model at the elementary and middle school level, and the hybrid model at Simsbury High School. Please take a moment to scroll down to the [FVHD School Learning Model Indicators](#) tab on our website.

I have received a few questions regarding the state color coded map that comes out of Governor Lamont's office each week. As of Thursday's data release, Simsbury remains in the red on the map. It is important to note that that map utilizes a separate threshold for placing a community in the red than does the learning indicator model that helps to guide our decision making for teaching and learning models within our schools. We will continue to monitor all of these markers closely.

We have updated our [COVID Dashboard](#) for the period of November 25 through December 3. This was to account for the Thanksgiving holiday break and is a longer time frame than normally reported. During this time period 2 staff members and 10 student positive cases were reported. These cases include 2 students at SHS, 3 students at HJMS, 4 students at Tootin' Hills School, and 1 student at Central School. This includes 4 cases reported a week ago Wednesday.

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. Thank you again for your support and be well.

Regards,

Matt Curtis  
Superintendent of Schools