

January 15, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

As was anticipated, we have seen an increase in the number of community members testing positive coming out of the holiday season in Simsbury and the Farmington Valley. We continue to monitor the data and work closely with our partners at the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD), with whom we meet weekly.

I would like to provide updated information relative to vaccines for employees in the education sector. Vaccinations have been made available to our school nurses, as well as to some therapists who are licensed by the state as Allied Health professionals. The district is awaiting permission from the state to upload the names of our remaining employees into the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS). It appears Phase 1b will have a stratified approach to distribution of the vaccine.

We have updated our [COVID Dashboard](#) for the period of January 8 through January 14. The current dashboard includes 2 staff members and 7 student cases as reported. These cases include 1 staff member at Simsbury High School and 1 staff member at Squadron Line School, 3 students at Simsbury High School, 1 student at Henry James Memorial School, 1 student at Tariffville School and 2 students at Tootin' Hills School. The total of 9 cases this week is a decrease from last week when 10 positive cases were reported.

We have updated the CT Learning Model Indicator chart on our website for the two week period ending January 9, 2021. The FVHD data for this reporting period is 37 cases per 100,000. With 29 cases per 100,000 in population in Simsbury, similar to last week's data, the recommendation from the health department continues to support our current models of instruction which include Simsbury High School remaining in the Hybrid model. Please take a moment to scroll down to the second tab [FVHD School Learning Model Indicators](#) on our Coronavirus Update webpage.

If anyone in your home is awaiting COVID-19 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 for your continued support of our protocols.

I hope you have the opportunity to settle back and enjoy the holiday weekend.

Regards,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools