

January 8, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

I hope each of you had the opportunity to relax and recharge as we begin 2021. After a well deserved break for all it was nice to welcome staff and students back this week. In addition to providing a weekly synopsis relative to COVID case data, I would like to update you on information we have received regarding recent CDC quarantine modifications and the most recent information we have received on the vaccination timeline.

Vaccine: There have been many inquiries regarding the vaccination process. We are pleased to report that our school nurses received the vaccine last week. Currently, educators are in category 1B for distribution and we are awaiting clarification from the state on those details. We have been in frequent communication with the Farmington Valley Health District about these vaccination plans to ensure that when Simsbury Public Schools' staff are eligible to receive the vaccine, we will be well positioned to begin that process.

CDC Update: Based on the updated guidance from CDC, the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Connecticut State Department of Education have updated guidance to change the quarantine period for persons known to be close contacts of cases of COVID-19 from 14 to 10 days if certain conditions and situations are met. After reviewing the changes and consulting with the Farmington Valley Health District, we are going to pause on making this change for a couple of weeks while we assess the impact of the holiday recess and travel.

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 are fortunate that the cases have not led to contact tracing within our schools or evidence of spread within our school community. We continue to monitor the data and work closely with our partners at the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD), with whom we will meet next Tuesday to receive our next update.

We have updated the CT Learning Model Indicator chart on our website for the two week period ending January 2, 2021. The FVHD data for this reporting period is 28 cases per 100,000. With 28 cases per 100,000 in population in Simsbury, 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.

We have updated our [COVID Dashboard](#) for the period of January 1 through January 7. The current dashboard includes 3 staff members and 7 student cases as reported. These cases include 1 staff member at Central School, 1 staff member at Latimer Lane School, 1 staff member at Tariffville School, 1 student at Simsbury High School, 1 student at Henry James Memorial School and 5 students at Tariffville School. These 7 cases are among 3 families. The total of 10 cases this week is a decrease from the week of December 25-31 when 14 positive cases were reported.

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.

As we step into a new year, I'd like to thank everyone for the successes of the past year. I hope that 2021 brings better days for all of us.

Regards,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools