

November 20, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

I continue to meet weekly with the Farmington Valley Health District to discuss and review the area COVID data. One of the most important positive data points shared on recent calls is that schools across the state and locally are not currently a place of secondary spread of the virus. Based on these conversations with the health district and a review of the local data, we will continue with the current plan of keeping Simsbury High School in the hybrid model for the foreseeable future and at least through the end of December. Our other schools will continue with their current schedules.

I would like to provide an update relative to COVID cases in our schools and the local area. We have updated the CT Learning Model Indicator chart on our website for the two week period ending November 14, 2020. As of the most recent data publication, Simsbury has moved into level orange with 11 cases per 100,000 in population which continues to support our model of in-person instruction. Overall, the Farmington Valley is also at level orange. This reflects an increase in case rates in the Farmington Valley with several surrounding communities moving into level red.

Within the Simsbury Public School district, we had five (5) positive cases for the period November 13 through November 19. There were seven (7) cases the previous week. We have updated our [COVID Dashboard](#) to reflect these cases as well as the number of students and staff currently in quarantine. Cases include two students at SHS and two staff members and one student in our Children's Academy preschool at Squadron Line School. While the cases in our preschool program remain unrelated, we have been required to quarantine a significant percentage of the Children's Academy staff. These quarantines have placed a strain on the remaining staff that is in place at the Children's Academy. Therefore, in consultation with the Farmington Valley Health District, we collaboratively decided to transition the preschool program to full remote learning through the Thanksgiving break.

After a two day closure at Simsbury High School, contact tracing has been completed by the Farmington Valley Health District and close contacts have been identified and informed to quarantine for 14 days. Students and staff will return to the in-person hybrid model of instruction on Monday, November 23rd.

I will plan on sending my next weekly communication after we return from the Thanksgiving holiday. I wish you and your family a safe and healthy Thanksgiving and thank you all for your continued partnership.

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools