

Continued Cancellation of In-Person Classes until January 25, 2021

January 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members,

We hope that this message finds you all safe and well. As a school district, we have been closely monitoring local, state, and federal public health guidance and data regarding the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in anticipation for our return to in-person hybrid learning on January 19.

Things were pointing in the right direction considering we went down from 52 to 49 on the state data tracker and we were planning to return. However, as you are aware, our district numbers this week have been very high (we had 18 students and staff who tested positive this week and we currently have a total of 65 students and staff in quarantine). Additionally, our number has significantly elevated to 74 as of last night as shared by the state (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>).

While our intent remains to return to in person hybrid learning, doing so next week would not be the prudent decision considering we have seen such a dramatic increase over the past week. Coming back next week would not align with what we have stated from the beginning, which is to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to extend the cancellation of in-person hybrid classes for all students and staff and to stay on remote learning until January 25, 2021.

I know this decision impacts you greatly and I understand completely how many of you are feeling. However, we cannot ignore the safety of our students and staff and we must do what is right based on the input of our district doctor, the Chief of Pediatrics from Griffin Hospital, our Head Nurse, our Emergency Management Director, the Director of the Naugatuck Valley Health District, the Board Chair, The Board Vice Chair, and the First Selectwoman.

We will continue to monitor our COVID data from the state tracker as well as our school tracker, which will be live today on our website. It remains our hope to return to our in person hybrid learning on Monday January 25, 2021. With this in mind, we would like to remind you to continue to do your part to help mitigate the spread of the virus while at home doing your remote learning.

The closure affects all school programming, including before- and after-school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and all weekend events.

Please Note:

Meals for students will continue to be available for pick-up at Seymour Middle School on:
Mondays from 12:00pm – 2:00pm,
Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:30, and on
Thursdays from 12:00 – 2:00

Remember we are all in this together and we are here to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Please stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,
Michael Wilson, Superintendent
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent

Attached for reference are Seymour's health practices, protocols, and monitoring of Covid-19

SEYMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH PRACTICES, PROTOCOLS AND MONITORING of COVID-19



REPORTING A POSITIVE CASE:

Due to confidentiality please report positive cases to your school nurse

- Rebecca Bennett: RNC Head Nurse, Bungay School Nurse
rbenett@seymourschools.org
- Lindsey Grailich, RN BSN Seymour High School Nurse
lgrailich@seymourschools.org
- Debra Julian BSN,RN Seymour Middle School Nurse
djulian@seymourschools.org
- Lisa Reynolds, RN Chatfield-LaPresti School Nurse
lreynolds@seymourschools.org



SCHOOL POLICIES REGARDING QUARANTINE:

- Any student or staff member who reports that they are **POSITIVE** for COVID will remain in isolation for their required 10 days and will only return to school when they are symptom free.
 - The SPS district considers any of these symptoms: fever, cough and congestion as transmissible symptoms of COVID and any student or staff with these symptoms must remain home until they are resolved after being diagnosed with COVID.
- Any student or staff who reports a **POSITIVE** COVID test in their **household** will remain in quarantine for 24 days from the positive household members, positive test date or onset of symptoms.
 - These individuals **can not test out of a quarantine** and will only return to school after their quarantine is finished and they are symptom free.
- Any student or staff who is considered a close contact of a positive person are required to quarantine for 14 days from their last day of exposure with the positive individual.
 - These individuals **can not test out of a quarantine** and will only return to school after their quarantine is finished and they are symptom free.
- If you plan on, or have traveled please refer to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> for current travel guidelines. Also, make your school nurse aware of any travel plans.

**Please note all cases will be treated by a case by case scenario.
For more information please refer to the Seymour School District Website.**