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Superintendent of Schools



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BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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November 13, 2020

Dear Bristol Public Schools Community,

As we head into the holiday and winter seasons, the risk of spreading COVID-19 has become higher and I highly encourage our BPS community to practice safe measures (e.g., no nonessential travel, no indoor or outdoor gatherings of 10 or more people, etc.) while at home. *I recognize that this is a significant ask, but it is critical to ensure that you keep yourself, your family, and ultimately our BPS community as safe as possible.*

We are closely monitoring the statewide spread of COVID-19, as well as our school-related cases of COVID-19 in our district. Earlier this week, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and Department of Public Health (DPH) stated that the mitigation strategies (e.g., masks, social distancing, cleaning and hygiene, ventilation, cohorting, etc.) that we have implemented are working, despite the increase of cases in our district.

We will continue to make school-specific and districtwide decisions based on public health data, while understanding the importance that in-person learning has on our scholars' social, emotional, and physical well-being. With that being said, we all should be flexible and prepared if we need to transition quickly to full virtual learning at home. This week, we transitioned Bristol Central High School, Chippens Hill Middle School, and various classrooms at Northeast Middle School, Greene-Hills School, and Southside School to remote learning for a set period of time. Many of the positive cases were a result of birthday parties, sports activities outside of the school, and social gatherings. The impact resulted in the disruption of in-person learning for our scholars. Schools can remain open only if our community remains vigilant of their actions and exposures to others.

These situations are ever-changing and it is best to consider how each scenario could impact your child. The health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff will always remain our top priority.

Please use the attached daily health screener and keep your child at home if they have any symptoms.

Cooperative Virtual Learning Parent and Guardian Meeting (flyers attached)

Please join Dr. Dietter and me on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, via Zoom to discuss our Cooperative Virtual Learning (CVL) program. We will host parents and guardians of Grades K-5 at 6:30 PM and parents and guardians of Grades 6-12 at 7:30 PM. You will hear from us and we want to hear from you! Our CVL model has reduced enrollment in each of our schools and enhanced our ability to socially distance and create safe spaces in our classrooms.

As always, we are BPS! We will *move forward together* and as a result, *be better together!*

In partnership,

Catherine M. Carbone, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools