



# GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETURN TO SCHOOL PLANNING TEAM

June 25, 2020

# Organizational Structure

- District Task Force

*Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent*

*Karen Hirsh, Board of Education*

*Dr. Katy Noble, GPS Medical Consultant*

*Mary Keller, GPS Head of Nursing*

*Members of Cabinet*

*Dr. Ann Carabillo, Sean O'Keefe, Sasha Houlihan, Mike Ting,*

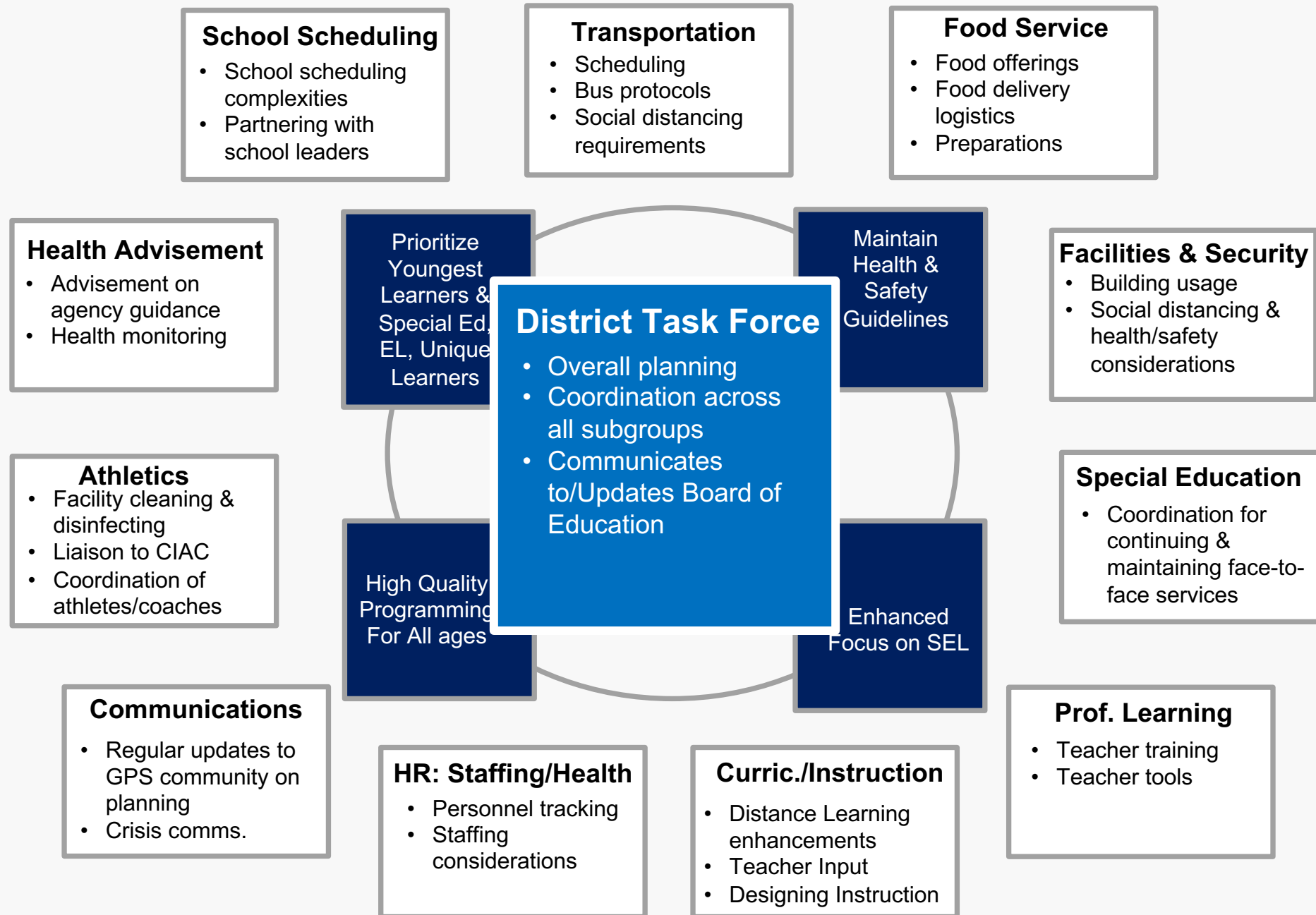
*Mary Forde, Shamain Johnson, Marc D'Amico*



# Focus Groups

- Health Advisement
- School Scheduling Complexities
- Transportation
- Food Service
- Athletics Return to Play (CIAC)
- District Communications
- Facilities Disinfecting and Cleaning Protocols
- Human Resources Staffing and Health Related Challenges
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Teacher Professional Learning
- Special Education, EL, and Unique Learners

# Greenwich Public Schools: 2020 Return to School Planning Team



# Overarching Goals

- If permitted, prioritize our youngest learners and those students with special needs to be physically present in the school building for instruction.
- High quality programming for all ages whether Distance Learning or Hybrid.
- Maintain safety and security to the highest degree considering guidance from the CDC, World Health Organization, CT State Department of Health, Greenwich Health Department, GPS Head of Nursing, and GPS Medical Doctor Consultant.
- Enhanced focus on the social and emotional health of staff and students given the COVID-19 impacts.

# GPS is Preparing for 3 Options

- Full return to school
- A hybrid approach with some days on campus and some days off campus.
- Full Distance Learning

# **Health Advisement Considerations and Current Status**

- Mary Keller, Director of GPS Nursing
- Dr. Katy Noble, GPS Medical Consultant

# RESC Alliance

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS



## CSDE ThoughtExchange

### Thematic Planning Concerns and Considerations

#### 1. District Response Coordination and Communication Needs

- Pandemic Response teams or committee – how will we ensure that our community understands how we are planning to address their concerns - communication in all forms will be critical.
- What will our systemic outreach and connect (reconnect) strategies with families be?
- The most important theme of the entire exchange is that there is abundant fear and concern – the only thing more important than addressing those concerns (represented by the themes below) is that your constituents KNOW that you have addressed those concerns.
- Learning opportunities – based on the responses to the concerns below, how will you train and support staff and families as you seek to educate them on the new situation and how to best work within it?
- Will there be opt-out pathways and alternative strategies for staff and students to accommodate those that cannot or will not show up regardless of precautions being taken?

## 2. Safety Concerns and Health Risks

- Mental health assessments – student, staff and family
- Provision of enhanced ongoing mental health support
- Ongoing screening and health checks to ensure only healthy people are coming to school.
- Concerns over sick children/adults coming to school –
  - What will the policy for a staff member or student who has symptoms?
  - What will the policy for a staff member or student who has tested positive?
- What will the exemption from attendance policy be?
  - Who cannot, should not, or will not come in regardless without a vaccination or proven therapy?
  - How will you educate or support – work assignments etc. – those students, teachers or staff?
- Will there be contact tracing or notification for a positive test?
- Concerns over children's ability to follow safety guidelines

## 3. Spread Mitigation Concerns

- Requiring (need/challenge) to having everyone wear PPE
  - Who will be required to wear it?
  - Who will have access to it?
  - Does everyone have enough of it?
  - What will happen if people refuse or do not comply?
  - What will be required of those who come from outside?
- Need for social distancing and the challenges of enforcement,
  - What is the “new” building capacity given social distancing requirements for common areas, passage ways, and classrooms.
  - What schedule is required to meet these expectations?
  - What transportation is required to meet these expectations?
  - What happens if children/adults do not follow it?
  - How will social distancing impact sports, physical education, and other extra-curricular activities?

#### **4. Challenges in Cleaning and Sanitation**

- Frequency and focus of cleaning strategies – frequency etc.
- Supplies – cleaning and disposables – what will be needed, where will we get it and how much will it cost?
- Do we have the labor required to fulfill those needs?
- Refuse disposal – how will disposed PPE be dealt with?
- How will the cafeteria work?

#### **5. Planning for Addressing Academic Gaps and Loss Mitigation**

- What is our community's readiness for learning?
- How will we learn about what the impact of the disruption be – what has been learned or NOT learned?
- When we identify those gaps, what will our gap closing strategies be?
  - How will we address equity concerns for special education students?
  - How will we address equity concerns caused by socio-economic disparities?
  - How will what we learn impact class placement, grading, and student support strategies?
- Technology capacity (staff and student) for device capacity/coverage and connectivity (home and school). Do we have enough to support learning as we plan to deliver it and if we have a second disruption (see below).

#### **6. Planning for a Rebound of the Virus and Second Wave Closing**

- What are our lessons learned from the emergency learning strategies we are currently deploying? What should we stop/start/continue once we go back?
- How will we plan for curriculum and instruction based on whatever the new structural/scheduling configuration is?
- What will the plan be if there is another interruption in the fall or some other time in the future?



# SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The purpose of this tool is to assist administrators in making (re)opening decisions regarding K-12 schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

## Should you consider opening?

- ✓ Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- ✓ Is the school ready to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness?
- ✓ Are you able to screen students and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?

ANY  
NO



## Are recommended health and safety actions in place?

- ✓ Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing and employees wearing a cloth face covering, as feasible
- ✓ Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- ✓ Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
- ✓ Train all employees on health and safety protocols

ALL  
YES



ANY  
NO



ALL  
YES



## Is ongoing monitoring in place?

- ✓ Develop and implement procedures to check for signs and symptoms of students and employees daily upon arrival, as feasible
- ✓ Encourage anyone who is sick to stay home
- ✓ Plan for if students or employees get sick
- ✓ Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
- ✓ Monitor student and employee absences and have flexible leave policies and practices
- ✓ Be ready to consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area

ALL  
YES



ANY  
NO



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# THE LATEST ON COVID-19

## A PEDIATRICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Katherine Noble MD

Medical Advisor, Greenwich Public Schools

June 25, 2020

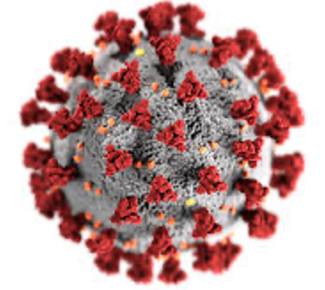






WE ARE  
GATHERING  
EVIDENCE  
NOW, FOR  
DECISIONS  
THAT NEED  
TO BE MADE  
NOW...

# SOME STATES are SEEING a RISE IN COVID-19 CASES



## 19 States Report Increase in COVID-19 Cases

Carolyn Crist

June 10, 2020



[+ ADD TO EMAIL ALERTS](#)

WebMD®

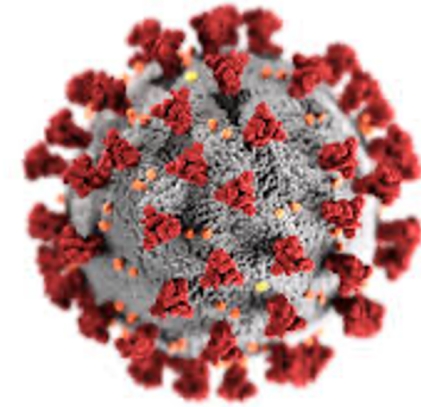


Across the US, 19 states are seeing an increase in cases, 24 are seeing a decrease, and seven are steady. Nearly 2 million COVID-19 cases and more than 112,000 deaths have been reported in the U.S. alone, according to [data from Johns Hopkins University](#).



# CT HAS BEEN HIT HARD

## Data from the CT DPH



### State Summary

### Connecticut COVID-19 Summary

Summary for the most recent day of reporting. Total COVID-19 Cases and Associated Deaths include confirmed plus probable.

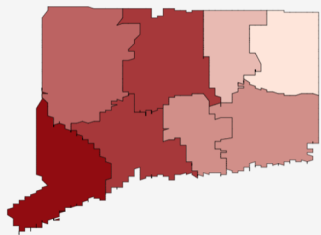
Measure	Total	ChangeDirection	Change
Total COVID-19 Cases	45,899	+	117
Total COVID-19-Associated Deaths	4,277	+	14
Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID-19	138	-	2
COVID-19 PCR Tests Reported	401,986	+	6,396

*The CT Summary table represents the date the data were reported to the CT DPH. Cases and deaths are cumulative over time. Hospitalization data are collected by the CT Hospital Association.*

Source: [CT Department of Public Health](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

## Cases by County

County	Total Cases	Percent of State's Cases	Cases per 100,000	Total Deaths
Fairfield	16,483	36%	1,747	1,362
New Haven	12,196	26.6%	1,427	1,063
Hartford	11,414	24.9%	1,280	1,350
Litchfield	1,467	3.2%	813	135
Middlesex	1,259	2.7%	775	174
New London	1,214	2.7%	458	101
Tolland	895	2%	594	64
Windham	584	1.3%	500	<20



FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
IS A HOTSPOT  
(CDC)

HAVE WE  
FLATTENED  
THE CURVE  
IN CT?





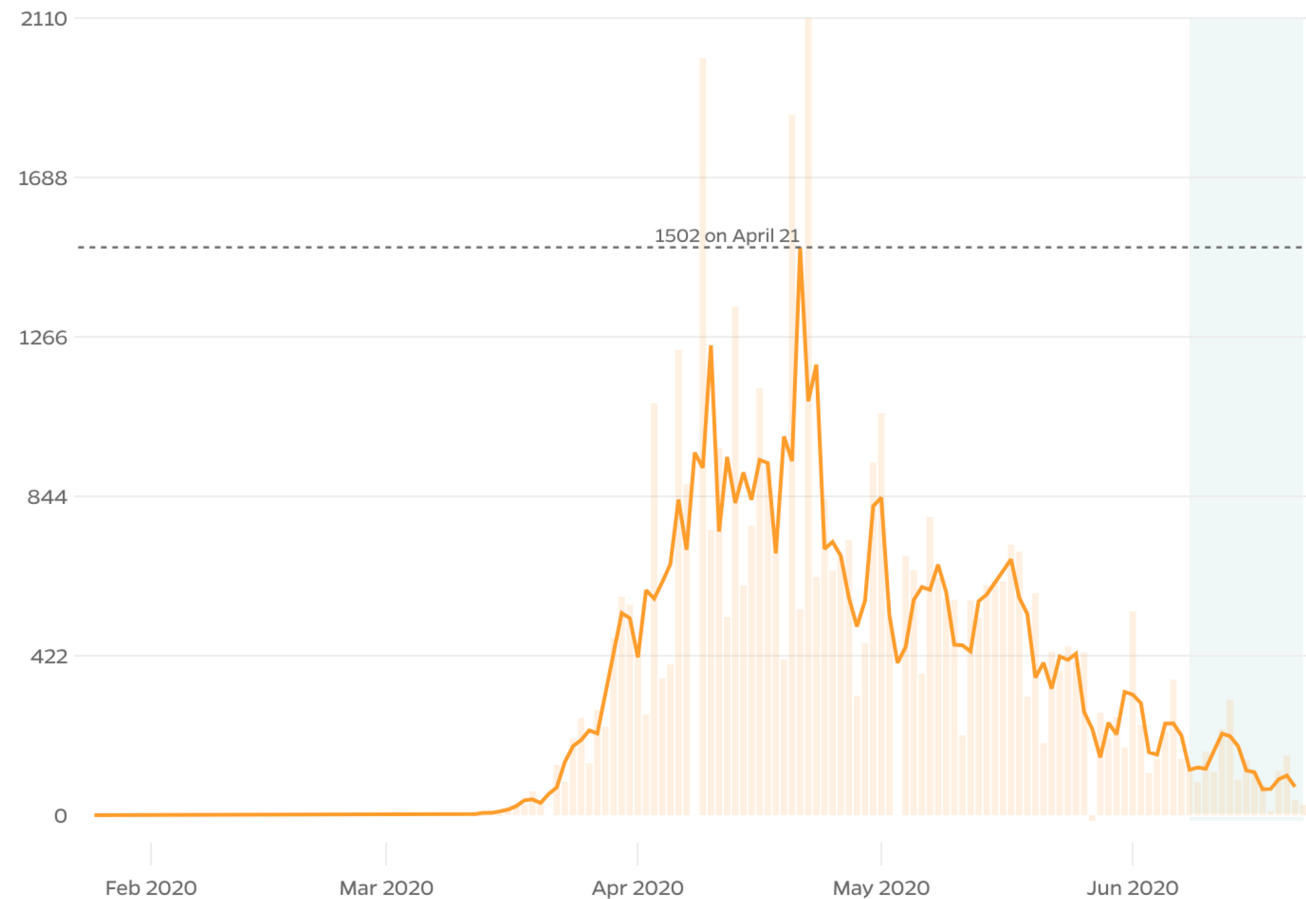
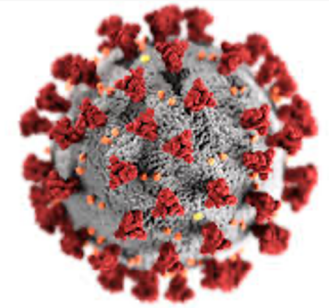
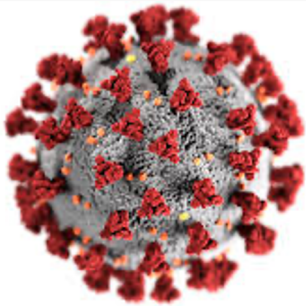
# Daily confirmed new cases (3-day moving average)

Outbreak evolution for the 50 STATES, D.C, AND PUERTO RICO

This page was last updated on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 03:00 AM EDT.

All States

Connecticut

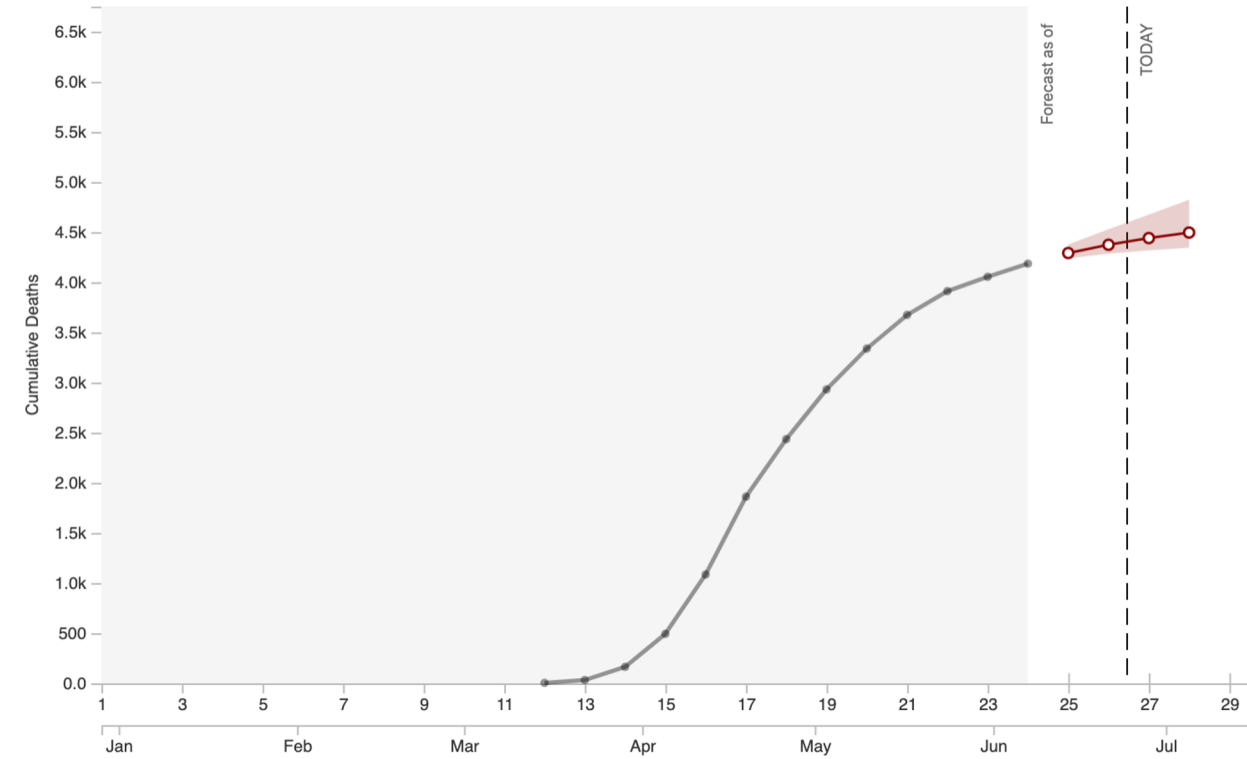


JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY & MEDICINE

CORONAVIRUS  
RESOURCE CENTER



Observed and forecasted cumulative COVID-19 deaths in Connecticut as of Jun 13, 2020

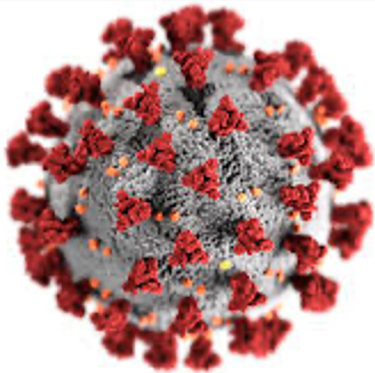


# CDC FORECAST FOR CT

DOES COVID-19 AFFECT  
CHILDREN AS  
SIGNIFICANTLY AS IT  
AFFECTS ADULTS?



DATA FROM THE CDC  
suggests no....

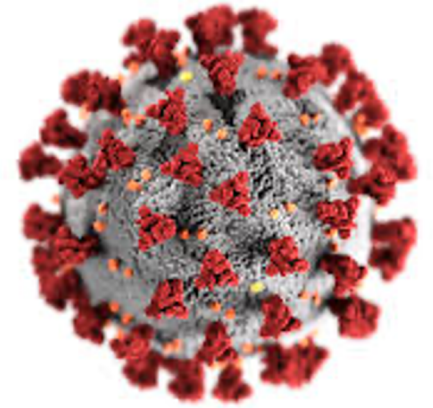


## Burden of COVID-19 Among Children

Pediatric cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), have been reported. However, there are relatively fewer cases of COVID-19 among children compared to cases among adult patients.<sup>1-5</sup>

- In the United States, 2% of confirmed cases of COVID-19 were among persons aged <18 years.<sup>4</sup>
- In China, 2.2% of confirmed cases of COVID-19 were among persons aged <19 years old.<sup>1</sup>
- In Italy, 1.2% of COVID-19 cases were among children aged  $\leq 18$  years.<sup>2</sup>
- In Spain, 0.8% of confirmed cases of COVID-19 were among persons aged < 18 years.<sup>5</sup>

# CLINICAL COURSE (CDC) ...



## Clinical Course and Complications in Children

The largest study of pediatric patients (>2,000) with COVID-19 from China reported that illness severity ranged from asymptomatic to critical:<sup>16</sup>

- Asymptomatic (no clinical signs or symptoms with normal chest imaging): 4%
- Mild (mild symptoms, including fever, fatigue, myalgia, cough): 51%
- Moderate (pneumonia with symptoms or subclinical disease with abnormal chest imaging): 39%
- Severe (dyspnea, central cyanosis, hypoxia): 5%
- Critical (acute respiratory distress syndrome [ARDS], respiratory failure, shock, or multi-organ dysfunction): 0.6%

# OUTCOMES in children (CDC)



## Outcomes in Pediatric Patients

Relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized, and fewer children than adults experience fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Severe outcomes have been reported in children including COVID-19 associated deaths.

Hospitalization was most common among pediatric patients aged <1 year and those with underlying conditions.



# The Washington Post



By **Joel Achenbach** and **Laura Meckler**

June 16, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. EDT

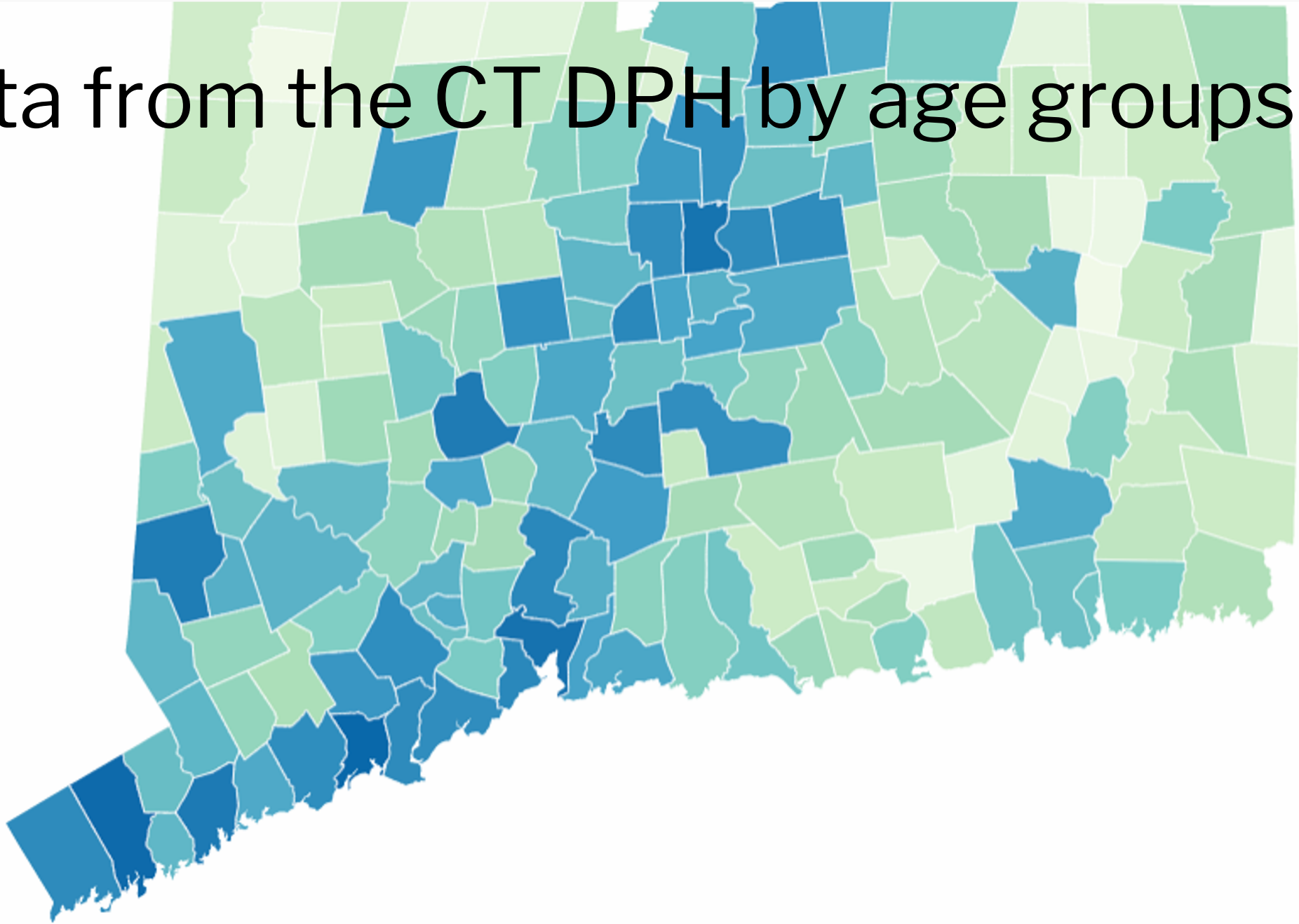
Children and teenagers are only half as likely to get infected with the [coronavirus](#) as adults age 20 and older, and they usually don't develop clinical symptoms of covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, according to [a study](#) published Tuesday.



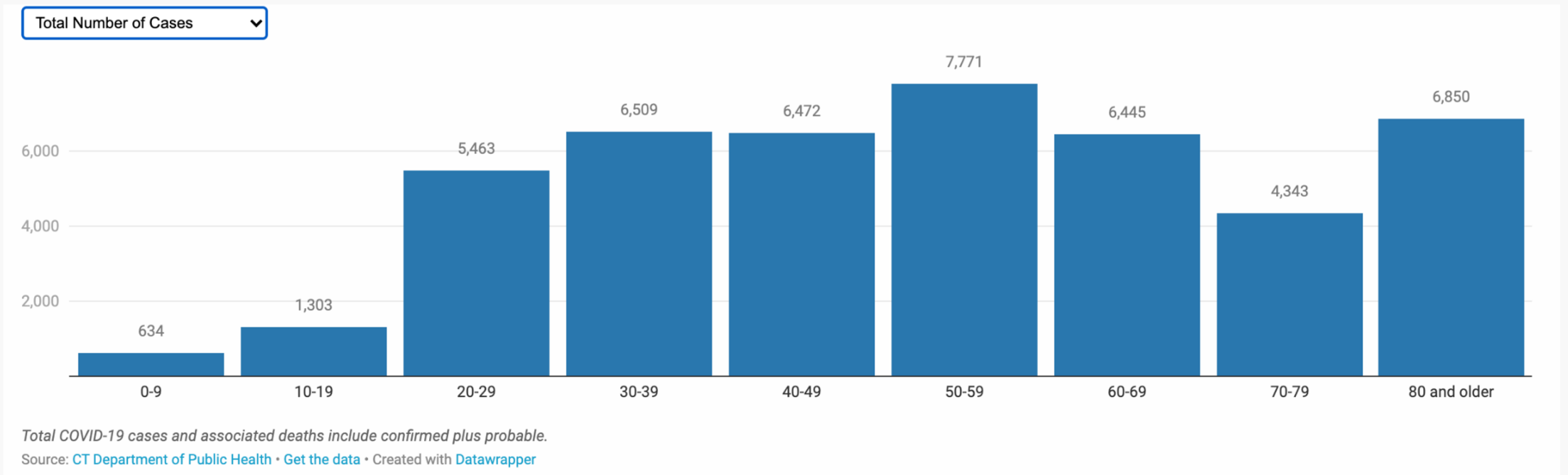
Children are only half as likely to get infected with the coronavirus, study finds



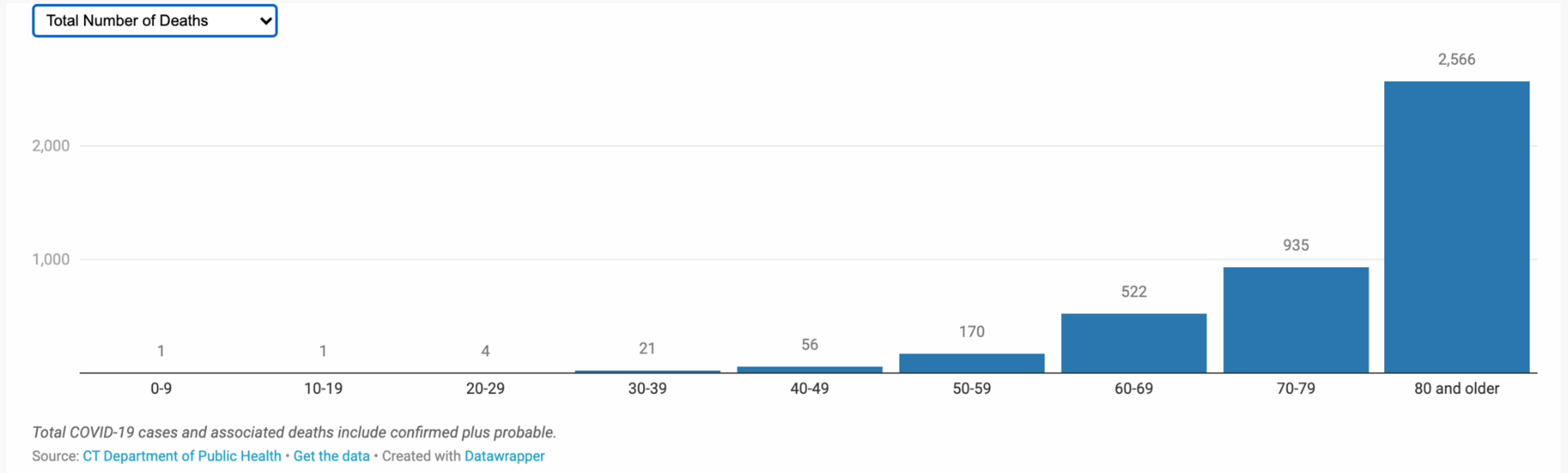
# Data from the CT DPH by age groups







# Case report Data from CT DPH



# Death report Data from the CT DPH

HERE IS  
ANOTHER  
CHALLENGE ...



# SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 in PEDIATRIC PATIENTS are generally mild ...



## Symptoms in Pediatric Patients

Illness among pediatric cases appear to be mild, with most cases presenting with symptoms of upper respiratory infection such as:

- Fever
- Cough
- Nasal congestion
- Rhinorrhea
- Sore throat



# As we approach the uncertainties of Fall 2020



**Be thoughtful, creative**

**Be prepared with multiple  
contingency plans**

**Be decisive and nimble,  
quick to adapt and change  
as needed**



“The measure of intelligence  
is  
the ability to change.”

~ Albert Einstein

# Return to School Planning

Thoughtful of student needs

Thoughtful of teacher needs

Thoughtful of staff needs

Thoughtful of family needs

# Curriculum and Instruction

## **Connecticut Arts Administrators Association Guidelines**

Special COVID-19 ordering to support a no sharing approach to markers, paint brushes, and items which are generally shared with large groups.

## **CSDE Guidance on Instruction**

50/50 Rule: Synchronous and Asynchronous teaching

GPS has already adjusted with a new model for summer school

## **Teacher Professional Learning**

Live and On-Demand sessions, Summer 2020

## **Student COVID-19 Rate of Learning**

New K-8 platform to help determine skill set master in reading and math



# Professional Learning Live Sessions



## LEARN LIVE



### Setting Up Your Google Classroom

**June 24 @ 10:00-11:15 am**

**June 25 @ 1:00-2:15 pm**

**July 14 @ 10:00-11:15 am**

**July 28 @ 10:00-11:15 am**

### Google Meets + Jamboard

**June 24 @ 1:00-2:15 pm**

**June 25 @ 10:00-11:15 am**

**July 21 @ 10:00-11:15 am**

**August 4 @ 10:00-11:15 am**

# Professional Learning On Demand

## LEARN ON YOUR OWN

Asynchronous sessions will be released in the  
**Distance Learning for GPS Educators Classroom** on the **Mondays** outlined below.



### June 10

Setting Up Your Google Classroom  
Book Creator: Getting Started  
Book Creator: Remote Learning



+ Live Q&A on June 30

### June 29

Interactive Bitmoji Boards  
Drawings: Sorts & Illustrations  
Google Meets + Jamboard



+ Live Q&A on July 15

### July 6

Slides: Screencasts, Voiceovers & Embedding Media  
Screencast with Screencastify  
NearPod: Screencasts



+ Live Q&A on July 15

### July 13

Educreations: Modeling Through Explicit Instruction  
Formative Assessment through:  
Nearpod  
Google Forms  
Flipgrid  
Dreambox  
Online Running Records



+ Live Q&A on July 22

### July 20

Showcasing Student Work & Promoting Peer Feedback:  
Flipgrid  
Padlet  
Screencastify  
Slides



+ Live Q&A on July 29

### July 27

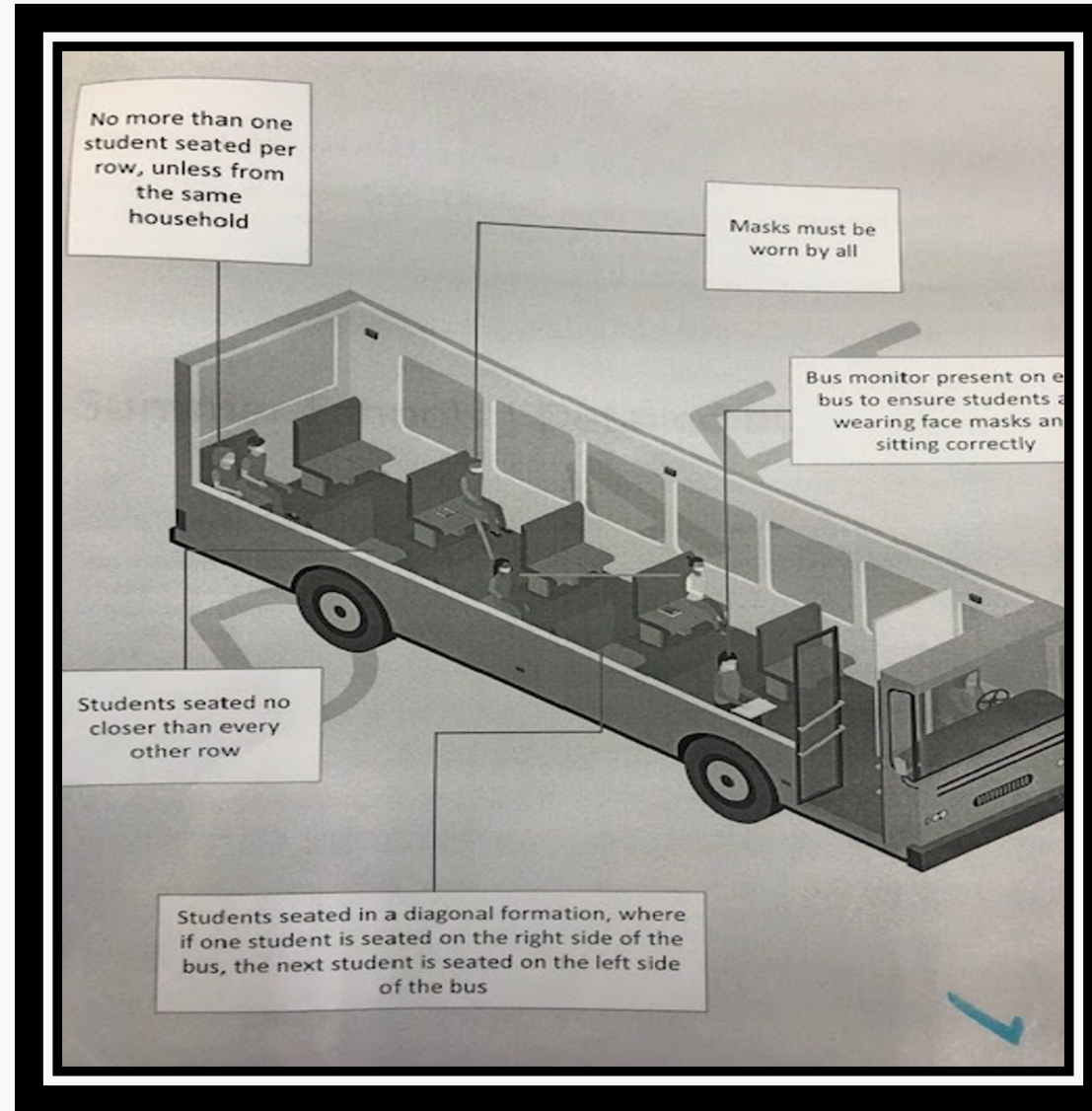
Google Classroom: Building & Sharing Assignments  
Google Classroom: Using Rubrics & Providing Feedback



+ Live Q&A on August 5

# Transportation

## CDC and State Guidance



# Transportation

1. GPS would need to triple the buses to run as normal.
2. There are not enough buses available to run routes as presented by the CDC.
3. GPS is waiting on updated transportation guidance which is expected to be released Friday or early next week.
4. If restrictions should be tight, GPS will ask families to transport their own children with the exception of unique needs or those families who have no other choice but to rely on GPS transportation.
5. Currently, the guidance also calls for a monitor on each bus. This requirement would require approximately 80 new bus monitor positions.
6. Current guidance requires temperatures to be taken before entering the bus. If a student has a temperature, who monitors the student if they are at the bus stop on their own?

**GPS believes the new guidance will not be as stringent, but still somewhat restrictive.**

# Food Service

**Food service will be dependent upon the Phase of COVID-19**

1. In the cafeteria with social distancing
2. In the classroom only (brown bag)
3. What about schools with no elevator? Who delivers?
4. No long lines (food must be distributed to the students)
5. If in the cafeteria, only with the same small cohort of students

# Athletics Return to Play

CIAC has Provided Guidelines

**Return to Play will be dependent upon the the Phase of COVID-19**

1. Disinfecting locker rooms
2. Social Distancing on the fields and in work out groups
3. Temperature taking, who monitors?
4. All locker room benches must be wrapped if any tears or rips are evident...

# Facilities Disinfecting and Cleaning

## **Cleaning Product Selection**

Viking Pure Clean: A sodium hydroxide solution

Viking PurSan: A hypochlorous acid solution used for disinfecting

Approved for COVID-19 disinfecting

Safe and non-toxic

Viking equipment which produces in excess of 200 gallons per day has been placed in areas around the district for easy distribution

# Facilities Disinfecting and Cleaning

## Paper Towel Dispensers

Disconnected and/or removed all blow dryer type units

In the process of adding touchless pull tab dispensers

In the process of adding touchless tissue dispenser/trash receptacle  
outside all restrooms



# Facilities Disinfecting and Cleaning

## PPE Equipment

- Masks and gloves ordered and received; approximately 10,000 in stock

- Shields and plexi units ordered for summer school

- Nursing protective equipment ordered

## Hand Sanitizer

- Ordering for all classrooms

## Temperature Stations

- Have hand held thermometers for Summer. Waiting on newest guidance before considering tent entry into buildings.

# Safety and Security

1. Social distancing floor adhesives are ordered
2. Traffic coordination is ready if buses are limited and traffic patterns and staggered starts are necessary

# Human Resources and Staffing

**One of the single most important indicators of opening**

1. Do we have adequate staff to meet social distancing guidelines?
2. How many staff are compromised and could be expected to have a Doctor's note of non-return?
3. Assessment of staff will happen over the next few weeks as CT determines if large gatherings are impacting the spread.

# GPS Communications

Continued communication through the summer months

Survey families about bus ridership and comfort returning to school

First survey expected to launch next week

Survey teachers in regards to compromised return to work

Producing “How To” videos for school communities about social distancing, utilizing new protocols, and general COVID-19 education in regards to schools.

# Special Education and Unique Learners

1. Evaluate the summer program for effectiveness and input on adjustments
2. Strategy for PPT and Evaluations put on hold due to COVID-19 challenges
3. Assess rate of learning during COVID-19
4. Assess rate of language acquisition for EL students during COVID-19

# School Scheduling Complexities

## Elementary 4-5 Day Goal

How do we get K-5 children back in school and meet social distancing requirements?

### Completed

Evaluation of Each Elementary Classroom Space (room usage and sf.)

197 Sections Projected

22 Greater than 20

4 Greater than 25

Key question? Social distancing expectations.

Additions? Plexi dividers on tables and specific station areas

# School Scheduling Complexities

## Middle School 4-5 Day Goal

Key questions

1. Could 6th grade be located off-site to allow more social distancing?
2. What electives could be capitalized in a unique way for space and teacher contact?



# School Scheduling Complexities

## **Greenwich High School**

Social distancing is not possible with a grouping of  
3,000 students in a building at capacity

1. GHS has an opening committee looking at many variations.
2. The drop schedule was not effective for Distance Learning
3. GHS must be prepared to move seamlessly as needed

# Task Force Meetings

Task Force June 30, 2020

Task Force July 2, 2020

Task Force July 7, 2020

Task Force July 9, 2020

Task Force July 14, 2020

Task Force July 16, 2020

# Focus Group Input

Elementary Teacher Focus Group: July 9, 2020

Secondary Teacher Focus Group: July 10, 2020

Specialists Teacher Focus Group : July 13, 2020

PTAC Input Session: July 15, 2020

# **BOE Planned Special Meetings Specifically for Return to School School**

BOE Special Meeting on Return: July 13, 2020 \*\*Public Meeting

BOE Special Meeting on Return: July 27, 2020 \*\*Public Meeting

# Thank you for joining!

<https://www.greenwichschools.org/district-information/return-to-school-planning-team-2020>