



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Christine Syriac – Interim Superintendent

Cheryl Mammen – Special Services Director | Alfred Pullo, Jr. – Director of Business Services/Operations

October 28, 2020

Dear Beecher Road Community,

I would like to thank all of Beecher Road families, students and staff for your support over the first two months of school in adhering to our guidelines and protocols to provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff. As we enter November, I would like to remind everyone to continue assessing symptoms on a daily basis and to keep your child home if he/she is not feeling well. Our nursing staff is available daily, if you have questions or concerns please call. Halloween is Saturday. I have posted a letter from the BOWA Superintendents on the district web site with suggestions and resources to practice a safe Halloween.

I am reaching out to share an update to *Addendum 4* which provides “*Guidance for Decision-Making Regarding the Use of In-Person, Hybrid, or Remote Learning Models in Connecticut Schools during Covid-19*”. The previous *Addendum 4* had columns labeled low, moderate, and high. The revised *Addendum 4* table is based on a continuum from Yellow to Red.

- **Yellow/low** favors more in-person learning. New Haven County has been in the yellow/low since the start of school. Infection rates have been on the rise across Connecticut, including New Haven County and the BOWA district.
- Movement into **Orange/moderate** indicates a reassessment of strategies to determine if moving to a hybrid learning model is warranted to reduce the density of people in the building. Approximately half of the in-person student population would attend each day. Our teachers are meeting this week to discuss what a hybrid model will look like for our students. We will share that information with parents when it is complete.
- Movement toward **Red/high** would indicate less in-person learning and potentially remote learning for all students. The structure of the school day, if we move to all students learning remotely, was contained in the reopening plan that was shared in August and is located on the district web site www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us

As the Connecticut State Department of Public Health learns more about Covid-19, they have made adjustments to how they measure and report the virus’ activity. Cases are now reported over a period of 14 days, previously data was looked at over a 7-day period. *In making decisions about whether or not to transition to another model, the Superintendent, local officials, the school medical advisor and the local public health department (QVHD) would also consider other factors.* While infection rates may be on the rise in the community, the school may remain a safe location due to the mitigation factors that are consistently occurring and that overlap each other. As noted in *Addendum 4*, “*the experience in our state since school reopening began indicates that transmission has been a rare event inside of school buildings even in communities with elevated transmission rates, likely due to the high level of planning and compliance with mitigation strategies designed to prevent transmission between individuals. This same level of planning and compliance is not necessarily in place in other settings outside of school buildings, and so engagement in general community activities requires more caution.*”

Please be very careful when engaging in activities outside of school. Consider staying close to home over the holidays and limiting social gatherings and extracurricular activities that involve cohorts outside the BRS community.

If there is a positive case at BRS (staff or student), we will begin contact tracing in conjunction with Quinnipiac Valley Health District. In some cases, we may need to close school and move to remote learning for a short duration (1-2 days) while contact tracing occurs.

Again, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your extraordinary patience during these unprecedented times in the midst of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Your understanding has been critical in keeping our school and community safe for students and adults alike.

Very truly yours,

Christine Syriac
Interim Superintendent

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