



# SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *Office of the Superintendent*

*Timothy M. Van Tasel*  
Superintendent

*Laura Guerrette*  
Executive Secretary

November 16, 2020

Good evening Suffield Public Schools Community,

The purpose of this brief correspondence is to raise awareness about the significant increase we are seeing in positive cases within the community of Suffield. The increase in school-based cases and the ever-increasing town and county positive case metrics are likely to result in a change to our school operations within the next two days.

<https://www.suffield.org/district/reopen-school-2020>

Over the past five days, we have seen our positive town cases increase from 19.4 to 33.9. While I had hoped that this would be a short-lived surge, the weekend statistics have proven otherwise. The trend line continues to increase, and it is extremely important that we make decisions that reflect our commitment to keeping our students, staff, and community healthy.

With this being said, I will be reaching out to the North Central District Health Department and our Medical Advisor to discuss our spike in positive cases and next steps for the Suffield Public Schools. While I hoped that we would be able to make it to Thanksgiving without the need to move to remote learning for all students, it is possible this may need to occur within the new two days. If it is decided that it is in the best interest of the district to shift to remote learning for a brief period of time, we will continue to monitor the metrics in hopes of reopening once our cases decrease to reasonable levels. At this time, I am asking families to please make the necessary preparations should this decision to move to remote learning be made as early as Wednesday. I will send another communication tomorrow afternoon after I have had the opportunity to speak with our health experts.

I apologize for the concerns this message may raise; however, I am wanting to remain as open as possible with our families as we navigate this pandemic together.

Sincerely,  
Timothy M. Van Tasel  
Superintendent of Schools