

# Recommendation to Return to Hybrid Instruction

DETERMINING IMPLEMENTATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS  
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

# Background

- BOE voted to move instruction to full distance learning on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and return to the hybrid plan on January 19, 2021
- High rate of staff absenteeism after precipitous increase in spread after Halloween causing frequent school disruptions, and concerns regarding anticipated holiday travel and gatherings
- The Superintendent and his staff would review rates and conditions weekly during this period to determine if early re-entry was viable and the January 19<sup>th</sup> conditions allowed for hybrid plan resumption

**This presentation provides the rationale for the recommendation to return at this time.**

# Factors that Determine Instructional Model (Hybrid or Full Distance Learning)

1. Health Metrics
2. Academic, Physical and Social Emotional Priorities
3. Resources and Facilities
4. Human Resources

# Factor 1: Health Metrics

## Indicators for Consideration

**The key leading indicator to support decision-making on the level of in-person education recommended by DPH and CSDE is:**

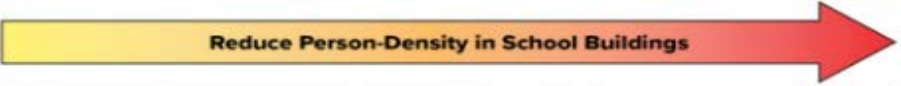
- The number of new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population per day (14-day average).

**Additionally, the CSDE guidance in Addendum 4 identifies three secondary indicators:**

- Percent test positivity (# of positive tests/# of total tests, 14-day average),
- Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population (14-day average),
- COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance (14-day average).

# CT Department of Education Guidance

in accordance with CSDE addendum 4

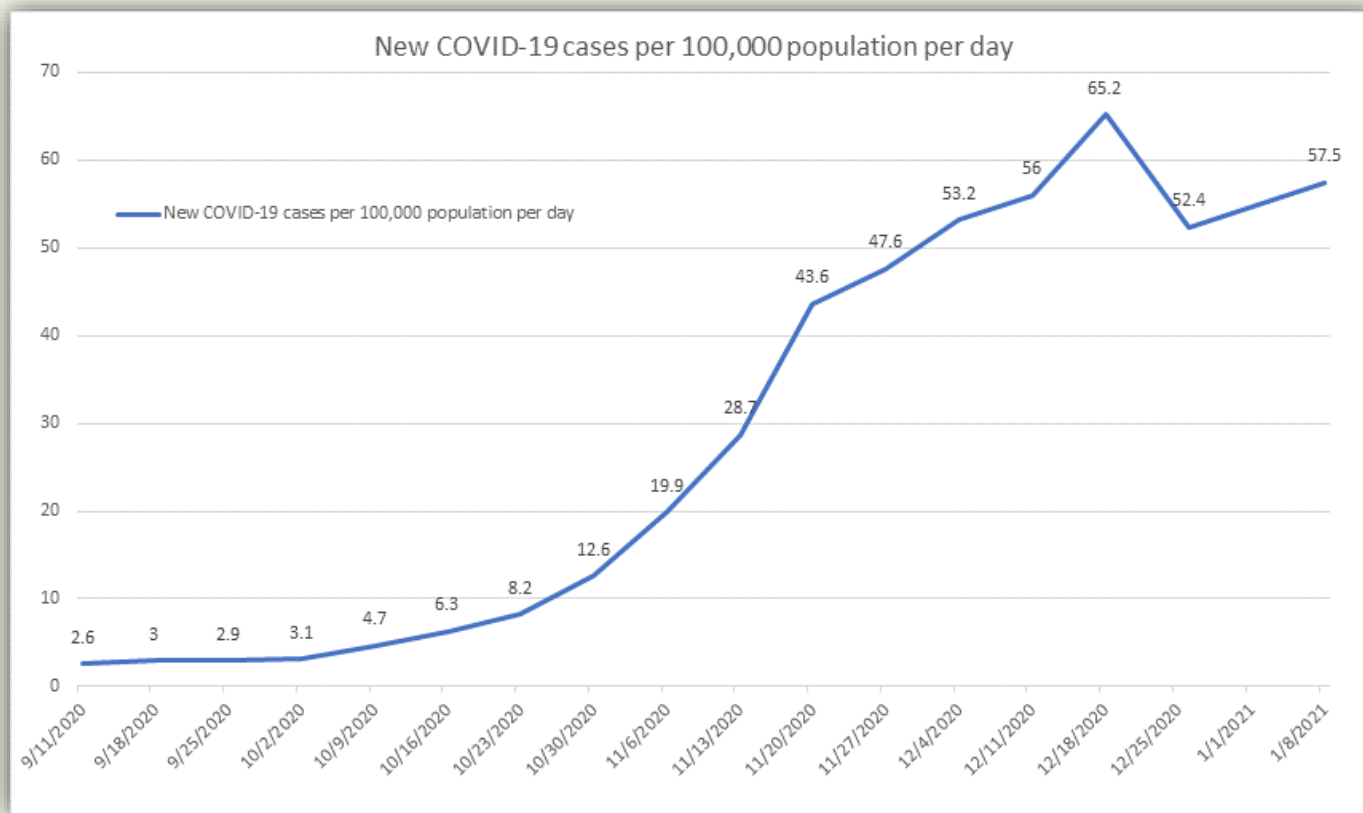
| Leading Indicator  | MORE In-Person Learning                    | Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning) | LESS In-Person Learning              |  |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Number of new cases of COVID-19</b><br>(14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day) | < 10 new cases per 100,000 per day         | 10 to < 25 cases per 100,000 per day   | 25+ cases per 100,000 per day        |  |
|                      |  |  |                                      |  |
| Secondary Indicators   | MORE In-Person Learning                    | Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning) | LESS In-Person Learning              |  |
| <b>Percent positivity rate</b><br><i>(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)</i>       | Secondary Indicators trending down to flat | <u>Direction of Change:</u><br>Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward                              | Secondary Indicators trending upward |  |
| <b>Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population</b><br><i>(14-day average)</i>       |  | <u>Speed of Change:</u><br>Any statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators          |                                      | Consistent, statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators |
| <b>COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance</b>                      |  | No statistically significant changes to Secondary Indicators   |                                      |  |

# Hamden-Area Indicator Statistics Risk

| County                 | New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day average) | Leading Indicator Risk Category | Percent test positivity (7-day average) | New COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population per day (7-day average) | Percent COVID-19-like illness hospital ED visits (7-day average) | Secondary Indicators Risk Category |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| From 12/20/20-01/02/21 |   |                                 |   |  |  |                                    |
| New Haven              | 57.5  | High                            | 8.0%                                    | 4.8  | 6.7%   | High                               |

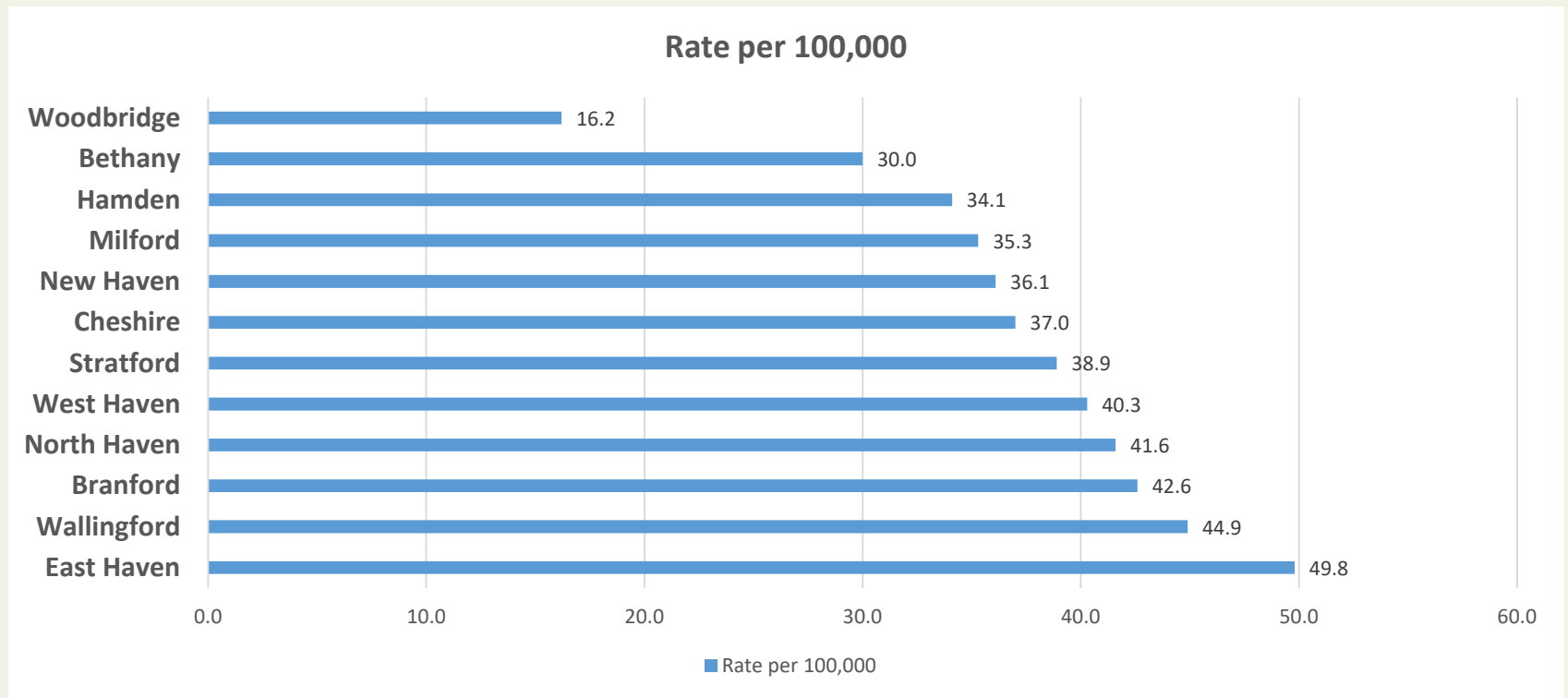
| Town   | Total COVID-19 cases over a 2-week period | COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population over a 2-week period | Number of tests in the last 2 weeks. | Percent of positive tests in the last 2 weeks. | Reporting period        | Data Updated |
|--------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|
| Hamden | 42.0                                      | 49.2   | 7,236                                | 6.6%   | 12/20/2020 – 01/02/2021 | 01/07/2021   |

# Trend-Line Data: Cases Over Time



# Surrounding Districts' Rates of Infection

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# Surrounding Districts' Current Instructional Model

## Full In-Person

- Bethany
- East Haven
- Woodbridge

## Full Hybrid

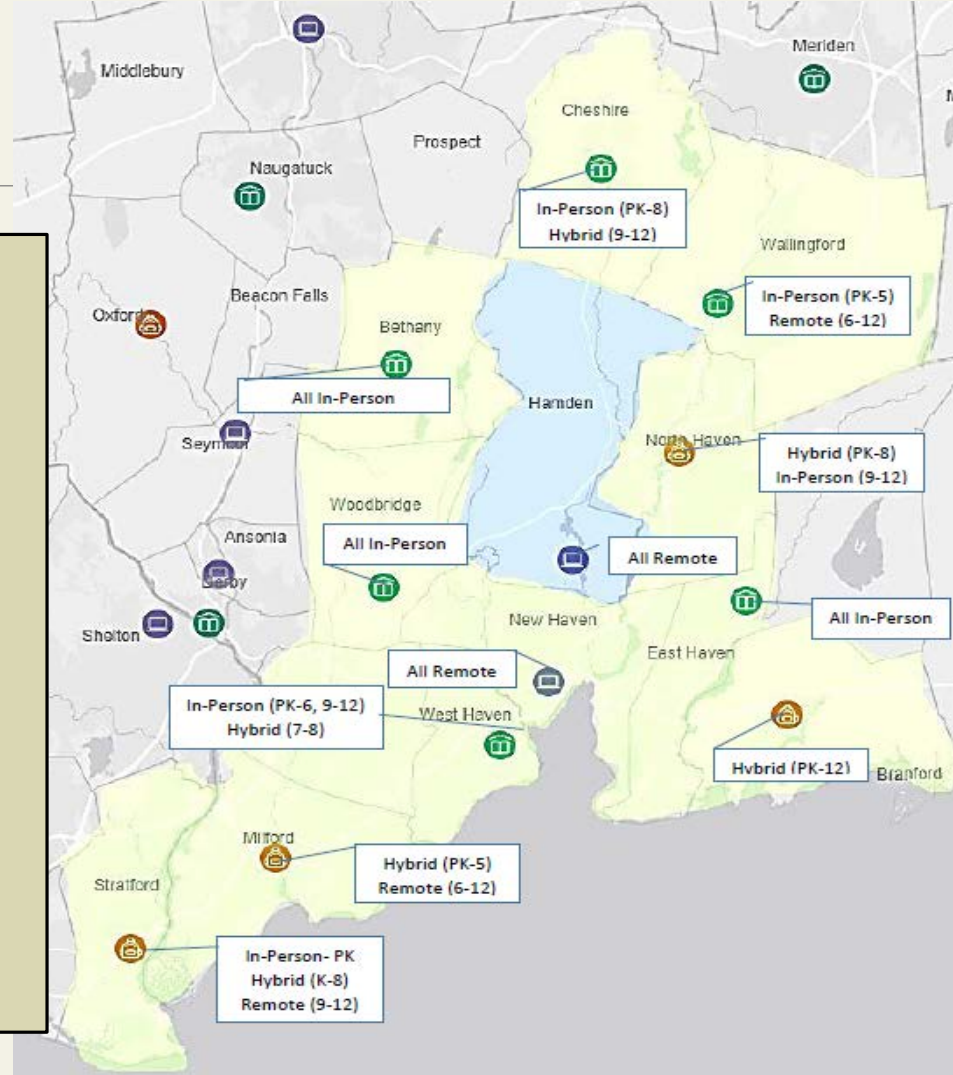
- Branford

## Full In-Person Elementary/Hybrid Secondary

- Cheshire
- North Haven
- West Haven
- Milford
- Stratford

## Full Remote

- New Haven (Moving to Hybrid on 1-19)



# Factor 2: Academic, Physical and Social Emotional Priorities

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- Support of our most vulnerable students – Special Education and Preschool
- Prioritize Elementary instruction through Hamden’s Hybrid Model (four-days per week), Emphasis on foundational reading and mathematics instruction
- Address student isolation and Mental Health
- Recognize that School is an important “Safety Net”
- Address achievement gaps
- Make meals available to all children on school days and weekends/holidays

# Factor 3: Resources and Facilities

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- Hamden Public Schools is well stocked with available PPE
- All schools are appropriately ventilated (CDC guidelines)
- The Hybrid Model has been proven effective providing opportunities for in-school experiences PK-12, while ensuring the health and safety of students and staff

# Factor 4: Human Resources

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- Currently, the district has staffing to provide instruction to all students at every level.
- Over the past 3 weeks, HPS has had 15 staff members who have tested positive
  - **12/21: 5 Staff members Tested Positive**
  - **12/28: 5 Staff members Tested Positive**
  - **1/4: 5 Staff members Tested Positive**
- Over the past 3 weeks, 27 staff members have been quarantined
  - **12/21: 8 Staff members Quarantined**
  - **12/28: 8 Staff members Quarantined**
  - **1/4: 11 Staff members Quarantined**
- No cases of COVID-19 can be traced to in-school exposure or activities
- CDC has changed quarantine period to 10 days, and now recommends 7-Day quarantine combined with a negative COVID-19 test and monitoring
- FFCRA expired on December 31

# HPS Staff Will Be Eligible for Vaccinations as part of Group “1B”

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Since early December, HPS has met weekly with the Vaccination Task Force (QVHD, Cornell Scott Medical, Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola, Theresa Ott, Marsha Guglielmino, Dan Levy, Jody Goeler)

- Learned procedures for ordering, approval process, and vaccine
- Examined district sites for suitable vaccination program
- Ordered appropriate equipment for vaccination program
- Developed a system for vaccinating all staff

**Tier1B Includes All Teachers and Staff (Tier 1A Includes Vaccines for Emergency and Health Professionals)**

- Planned with Cornell Scott a process for first vaccinating school health professionals to allow them to assist in the vaccination effort.
- Polled staff twice to determine willingness and interest in receiving vaccinations
- Provided to QVHD a spreadsheet of staff who expressed interest in receiving the vaccine
- Developing a list that prioritizes teachers and staff who work closely with our most vulnerable children

Hamden’s work in these efforts has resulted in HPS obtaining the earliest dates for access to vaccines in Connecticut. HPS chose the earliest Saturday dates available for vaccinating staff – January 30<sup>th</sup> or February 6.