



# SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Office of the Superintendent

Timothy M. Van Tassel  
Superintendent

Laura Guerrette  
Executive Secretary

Good afternoon Suffield Public Schools Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff,

The purpose of this communication is to update our Suffield Public Schools community regarding the Governor’s Travel Advisory - Executive Order 9(S). As of March 31, 2021, the State of Connecticut has no longer been enforcing COVID-19 testing and quarantine requirements for out-of-state travel. In keeping with this and the April vacation set to begin, it is important that we formally communicate that the Suffield Public Schools will also be discontinuing these mandates.

### [TRAVEL ADVISORY for Connecticut During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Important to note, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has articulated that residents should continue to follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control regarding interstate travel. Many of these recommendations were found in the Governor’s former travel advisory. However, enforcing and monitoring these guidelines in the absence of a state-level policy present a challenge to both our scope of authority and our ability to ensure fidelity of a district imposed mandate.

With this new flexibility comes the potential for increased COVID-19 cases within the Suffield Public Schools. As a result, we remain very hopeful and trusting that everyone will continue to prioritize health and safety throughout the vacation week. Most importantly, we respectfully request that our entire school district community closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 over the vacation and in the days and weeks following the break. In addition, we are requesting that our families and staff continue to notify school administration or our school nurse’s office by phone or email with COVID-19 cases or exposures throughout the vacation week. Please note that you may not receive a response from the school until Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, I would like to provide you with the following update regarding our recent history of positive cases within the Suffield Public Schools. As we learned from previous experience, timeframes that included holiday gatherings and vacations resulted in higher than normal case counts in the weeks immediately following these events. Therefore, it is very possible that we may experience an uptick in cases during the latter weeks of April and the beginning of May. While we are hopeful that this will not occur, we will closely monitor and provide notification of increasing case rates if necessary.

### **SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEKLY CASES**

	Week of 2/15/21	Week of 2/22/21	Week of 3/1/21	Week of 3/8/21	Week of 3/15/21	Week of 3/22/21	Week of 3/29/21	Week of 4/5/21	TOTAL
<b>SHS</b>	1	2	8	2	2	3	0	2	<b>20</b>
<b>SMS</b>	0	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	<b>7</b>

<b>MIS</b>	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	<b>6</b>
<b>AWS</b>	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	3	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>41</b>

In closing, I remain confident that we will be able to maintain our current operational status through the remainder of this school year. As stated in previous communications, we must continue to be vigilant as new mutations of the virus have proven to be highly contagious. With the support of the entire community, we will continue be able to maintain our current operational service and provide our students with the conclusion to the school year we would hope for them.

Sincerely,  
Timothy M. Van Tasel, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools