



# SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Office of the Superintendent*

*Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.  
Superintendent*

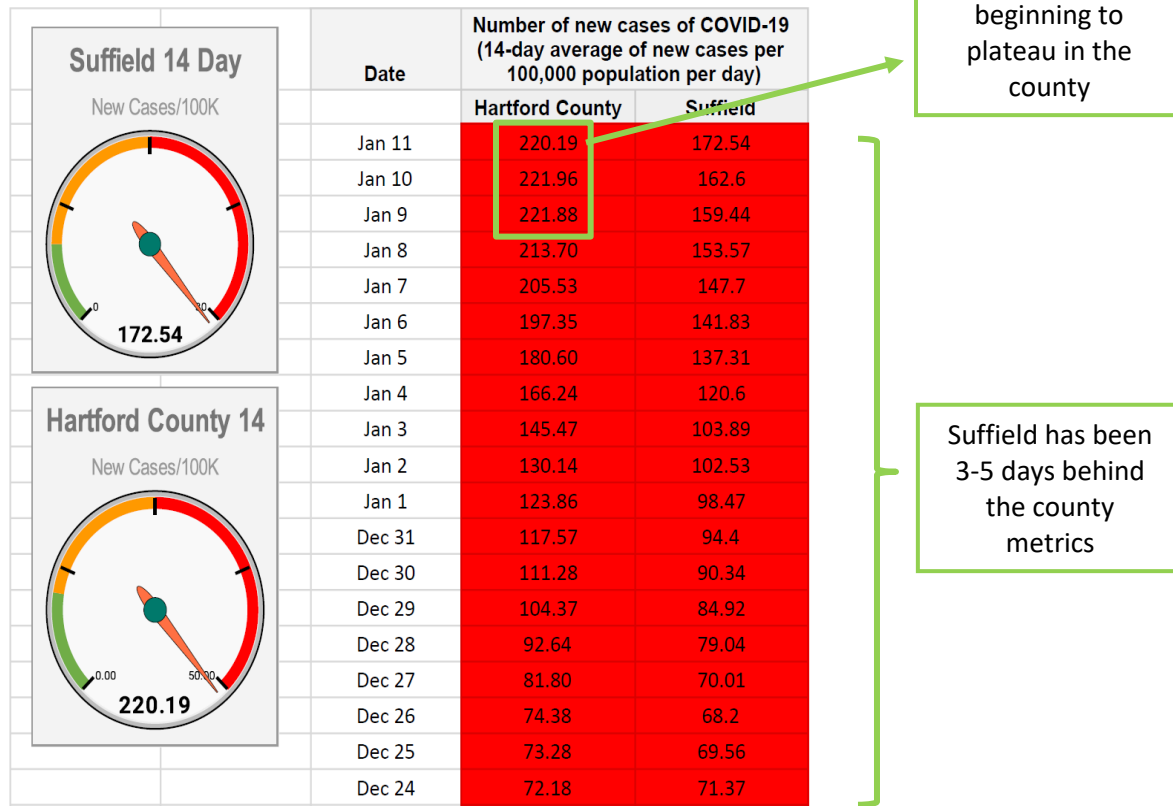
*Melissa Bielonko  
Executive Secretary to the  
Superintendent*

January 13, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff

I am including our most recent metrics that we have been monitoring closely over the past two weeks. We are cautiously optimistic that the recent data trends are a sign that we are headed in the right direction. I would like to thank Melissa Bielonko, Jeanine Rose, Bill Hoff, Kathy Carney, and Becky Osleger for maintaining the important data being utilized to guide our district decision-making.

## COVID-19 Hartford County and Town of Suffield Metrics



Although it is only a 3-day trend, our positivity rate in Hartford County appears to be plateauing. Over the past three weeks, Suffield’s case rate has been 3 to 5 days behind the county rate. If this continues, within the next week we may be at the crest of the wave – and soon thereafter, the downward trend in positive cases should occur.

## COVID-19 Suffield Public Schools COVID-19 Trend History

	24-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	3-Jan	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan	7-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan
# of Confirmed Cases	7	24	11	17	11	10	67	10	8	3	9	63	9	7
# of Students Quarantined	101	84	85	86	91	89	111	148	179	182	151	158	104	76
# of Certified Staff Quarantined	1	2	3	4	7	8	10	16	16	14	14	3	4	3
# of Non-Cert. Staff Quarantined	1	2	2	4	5	5	2	5	5	6	6	8	6	5
<b>Cert. &amp; Non-Cert. Staff Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Student &amp; Staff Totals</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>84</b>

Important to note, the cases reported for January 3 and January 10 are likely the result of when the notifications of positive cases are entered into our online reporting system. Although the portal remains open on Saturday and Sunday, most weekend cases are not reported until Sunday evening or Monday morning.

In terms of student quarantines, our numbers are decreasing at a pace we anticipated. With a downward trend in positive cases beginning to occur, we are encouraging our families to begin transitioning their students back to school as soon as the 5-day quarantine period has lapsed and symptoms have improved. We have also had many students logging onto remote instruction without notification to the district regarding the need to quarantine or isolate. Please understand that we are not permitted to provide remote learning outside quarantine, isolation, documented health concerns for students or family members who they reside with.

## SPS Student Absence Reporting

		1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8	1/9	1/10	1/11	1/12	1/13
AWS	Student Isolation (Parent-Reported Positive Cases)	0	2	2	2	0	2	3	3	5	4	4	2	0
	Student Quarantine (Exposures/Symptoms/Family Member) - "Powerschool Remote"	-	-	5	11	25	27	-	-	-	25	34	54	44
	Students Absent - "Powerschool Absent Excused & Unexcused"	-	-	56	45	38	38	-	-	-	29	22	15	23
MIS	Student Isolation (Parent-Reported Positive Cases)	2	2	4	1	2	1	2	0	5	17	3	2	0
	Student Quarantine (Exposures/Symptoms/Family Member) - "Powerschool Remote"	-	-	7	4	16	37	-	-	-	16	23	30	32
	Students Absent - "Powerschool Absent Excused & Unexcused"	-	-	56	45	32	26	-	-	-	51	37	24	26
SMS	Student Isolation (Parent-Reported Positive Cases)	7	3	4	1	3	1	0	3	2	2	1	0	0
	Student Quarantine (Exposures/Symptoms/Family Member) - "Powerschool Remote"	-	-	1	1	17	24	NA	-	-	12	18	21	18
	Students Absent - "Powerschool Absent Excused & Unexcused"	-	-	54	54	40	32	-	-	-	29	31	28	26
SHS	Student Isolation (Parent-Reported Positive Cases)	1	9	13	5	3	1	4	5	9	4	1	3	0
	Student Quarantine (Exposures/Symptoms/Family Member) - "Powerschool Remote"	-	-	1	2	14	19	NA	-	-	13	13	7	10
	Students Absent - "Powerschool Absent Excused & Unexcused"	-	-	104	112	112	106	-	-	-	105	98	94	90

Over the next two weeks, we anticipate and ask for your support in reacclimating our students following their brief periods of remote learning. We have had an unprecedented number of students with positive cases or exposures over the past two weeks, which has resulted in far more students accessing remote learning than we experienced the first half of the year.

As we continue to reiterate, remote learning is no replacement for in-person instruction. Further, it is a challenge for teachers and support staff to provide the individualized attention that we would like to give to our students. With this being said, we look forward to this COVID-19 wave coming to an end – and seeing more and more of our students returning to their classrooms. Please know that our Psychologists, Social workers, School Counselors, and Family-School Liaison can help to offer reassurance and support students who may be concerned with returning to in-person learning. Please reach out to these wonderful resources if needed.

### SPS COVID-19 PCR Testing

Date	Registered	Tested	Positive		% Tested	% Positive
20-Dec	301	169	2		56.1%	1.2%
29-Dec	447	136	17		30.4%	12.5%
3-Jan	670	313	19		46.7%	6.1%
6-Jan	757	306	17		40.4%	5.6%
10-Jan	814	351	21		43.1%	6%

We will continue with PCR testing twice per week until our positivity rate within the county, town, and schools is in alignment with where we were prior to the December vacation. Following that point, we will continue with testing once per week so long as the testing resources continue to be available to us. We feel fortunate to be able to offer this opportunity to our students and staff, and we are grateful to Concentric for their timely processing of our tests. It is also important to note that the district has a significant supply of at-home rapid tests for symptomatic students and staff. If you need one of these kits, please contact our School Nurses or school administration.

In closing, thank you again for your patience and support as we navigate this pandemic. In addition, thank you for working together for our students.

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