



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Melissa Bielonko
Executive Secretary

March 13, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff

Before getting into the purpose of this communication, I would like to thank the Suffield Middle School PTAC and the large community turnout for Friday night's annual Student v. Staff basketball game. The fans, players, coaches, officials, intermission participants, announcers, and volunteers helped to keep the spirit of this annual tradition alive and well, and have us all looking forward to the 2022-2023 rematch. If anyone is interested in watching some more Wildcats Basketball, the spirit can be brought forward to tomorrow night (Monday, March 14) when the SHS Boys Basketball team hosts their CIAC Quarterfinal game against Windsor Locks High School at 7:00 pm in the SHS Gymnasium.

In terms of our COVID-19 operational status update, we have continued to trend in a favorable direction since shifting to optional mask-wearing on February 28th. As a result, our schools will be able to return to their normal operating procedures over the course of this week.

Updated Layered Prevention Strategies (March 14, 2022)

Social Distancing

To the greatest extent possible
Small group work permitted
Discontinuing of satellite cafeteria spaces

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing will continue
Classroom notifications (AWS/MIS)
Close Contacts Notifications (All Schools)

Cohorts

No changes to current procedures

Vaccination

No changes to current procedures

Quarantine Protocols

No changes to current procedures

Mask-wearing

Utilization of masks will remain **OPTIONAL**
Universal masking no longer required on Busses
Masking no longer required for CIAC Athletics

Reinforcing Good Hygiene

No changes to current procedures

Ventilation and Cleaning

No changes to current procedures

COVID-19 Testing Availability

Mondays only

COVID-19 Hartford County and Town of Suffield Metrics

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

Date	Number of new cases of COVID-19 (14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day)	
	Hartford County	Suffield
Mar 7	9.31	3.61
Mar 6	9.19	3.16
Mar 5	9.55	4.52
Mar 4	9.91	6.32
Mar 3	10.27	7.68
Mar 2	11.51	9.49
Mar 1	12.42	10.39
Feb 28	13.41	11.29
Feb 27	14.99	12.2
Feb 26	15.29	12.2
Feb 25	15.59	14.91
Feb 24	15.89	17.62
Feb 23	17.33	19.87
Feb 22	17.43	20.78
Feb 21	18.13	22.58
Feb 20	20.30	32.07
Feb 19	20.71	46.07
Feb 18	21.11	44.72
Feb 17	21.52	43.36
Feb 16	21.97	41.55
Feb 15	23.56	43.36
Feb 14	24.72	46.52

Feb 13	25.74	46.52
Feb 12	27.29	48.33
Feb 11	28.84	48.33
Feb 10	30.38	48.33
Feb 9	32.83	48.33
Feb 8	36.38	54.2
Feb 7	40.22	61.43
Feb 6	46.07	72.72
Feb 5	52.82	76.79
Feb 4	59.58	95.76
Feb 3	66.33	114.73
Feb 2	71.83	124.21
Feb 1	77.96	128.28

COVID-19 Suffield Public Schools COVID-19 Trend History

	18-Feb	19-Feb	20-Feb	21-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	24-Feb	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	1-Mar	2-Mar	3-Mar	4-Mar	5-Mar	6-Mar	7-Mar	8-Mar	9-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar
# of Confirmed Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

SPS COVID-19 PCR Testing

Date	Registered	Tested	Positive	% Tested	% Positive
14-Feb	818	274	0	33.5%	0.0%
23-Feb	818	213	0	26.0%	0.0%
28-Feb	818	233	1	28.5%	0.4%
3-Mar	818	145	0	17.7%	0.0%
7-Mar	817	254	0	31.1%	0.0%
10-Mar	817	137	0	16.8%	0.0%

As we make further changes to our protocols, we will continue to monitor each of our schools for cases of COVID-19 in the weeks ahead. Further, we will continue to follow county, state, and national trends should a new variant or wave of positive cases emerge. It is also important to note that allergy season will soon be upon us. Due to the challenges of distinguishing between seasonal allergies and COVID-19 symptoms, we are encouraging that testing be done if multiple symptoms arise. If you would like to access a district provided COVID-19 self-test prior to sending your child to school, please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse. The district has a significant supply of at-home tests that are available to students and staff.

I wish you all a wonderful week ahead.

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