

Friday, December 18, 2020

Dear Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 School Communities,

I hope this message finds you and your families healthy and looking forward to the upcoming holiday break. As indicated in my previous communications, it is our priority to operate our schools in person to the greatest extent possible during the pandemic. I am writing today to inform you that after consulting with our local health departments, we are scheduled to return after the holiday break for full, in-person learning at all schools beginning Monday, January 4, 2021. Parents, please note that students will continue to have the option of attending school in full remote.

During the break we will continue to consult with the Connecticut River Area Health District and the Town of Essex Health Department. As previously shared, the decisions about the safest mode of school operation are based on the most up to date data available. We will continue to rely on internal data related to positive cases, associated quarantines, and available staffing levels to determine the most appropriate mode of school. If there is a need to return from break in a different mode of school at any of our buildings, we will communicate that in as timely a manner as possible.

As we plan for our return on Monday, January 4th, we are again requesting that staff and parents notify their principal in advance if you or your student will not be attending in person due to a quarantine, as well as the return date. We would also like to remind everyone that if you're experiencing symptoms or are sick, please stay home from school. This will aid in our efforts to keep our buildings open moving forward after the break.

On behalf of all of us, from the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Schools, we would like to wish you a healthy, safe and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Brian J. White  
Superintendent of Schools