

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

Due to multiple positive cases of Covid-19 currently impacting our schools, we have made the decision, in consultation with Connecticut River Area Health District and the Town of Essex Health Department, to transition all schools to full, remote e-learning until November 30, 2020.

At the time of this communication, our school system has 23 staff members and 123 students PreK-12 required to quarantine with various return dates. We are also actively investigating multiple, new cases in partnership with our local health departments. In addition to concerns about spread within the schools and the need for further contact tracing and quarantine requirements, we are experiencing staff shortages related to these cases that impact our in-person operations.

Students and staff are asked to participate in remote learning until Monday, November 30th. All non-instructional and essential staff are to await further instructions from their building principal or department supervisor. Grab and Go meals will be available for pick up outside the schools Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Staff and community members are encouraged to take advantage of free Covid-19 testing available in Old Saybrook. For additional details please see this flyer: [FREE Coronavirus Testing](#). Testing is also now available at the Old Saybrook location for free Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We will communicate further updates as they become available. Our buildings will be closed to the public until further notice, however, our front main office staff in each school will be available if you need to call or communicate with the schools.

Thank you for continued patience and understanding during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,  
Brian J. White  
Superintendent of Schools