



WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"Schools Committed to Excellence"

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NEIL C. CAVALLARO

Superintendent of Schools

October 30, 2020

Dear West Haven Families, Students and Staff,

On behalf of our students and our valued staff, I write today to make a plea for your help. I am proud of the commitment our district has made to opening schools and educating our students. I believe that our staff at all levels have been working hard and doing an excellent job at mitigating the spread of COVID in our buildings. Despite the success we have had in schools, transmission is increasing through community contacts and positive cases have been on the rise in our city. Yesterday, West Haven was issued an orange COVID-19 community alert from the State Department of Health. I am attaching a copy of the recommendations based on that alert. As a result, our city is temporarily adopting the restrictions in Phase 2 of the CT Reopening Plan. It is for this reason we desperately need the support of our community in order to continue to keep our schools open.

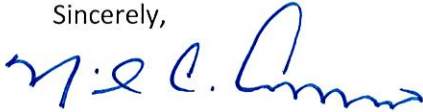
With the holidays approaching and opportunities for social gatherings increasing, it is imperative that we adjust, as a community, and reduce our risk. We are asking that you limit unnecessary travel and participation in social gatherings. Understandably, this is an imposition on the traditional celebrations many of us have looked forward to in the past; however, the spread in our community directly impact the resources (educators, staff and substitutes) available and that, could ultimately result in the closure of our buildings despite our successful and concerted efforts to keep them safely open.

We continue to work hard, on our end, to maintain the health and safety of our school community. I hope you have taken advantage of the many updates and photos shared on our various social media accounts that highlight the learning that is taking place in our classrooms. Students are thriving and their happiness is palpable. We cannot extend enough gratitude to our staff for the work they are doing; staff have truly risen to the challenge.

To conclude, I would like to share with you some words from the Connecticut State Department of Education, *"It should be noted that the experience in Connecticut since reopening began for the 2020-21 academic year indicates that transmission has been a rare event inside of school buildings even in communities with elevated transmission rates. This is likely due to the high-level of planning and compliance with mitigation strategies designed to prevent transmission between individuals."*

It is truly in the hands of our entire community to reduce the spread of this virus. Vigilance in mitigating transmission by adhering to the use of face coverings, hand washing, social distancing and isolating when sick or quarantined will make a sizeable difference both inside and outside our schools. We implore you to consider these safety measures now and thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.






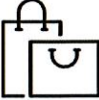
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil C. Cavallaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Neil C. Cavallaro
Superintendent of Schools

ATTACHMENT

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TOWN-LEVEL COVID RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

| | Yellow 5-9 cases per 100k per day | Orange 10-14 cases per 100k per day | Red 15+ cases per 100k per day |
|---|--|--|--|
|  DPH Response | Outreach to Local Health Department | ENCOURAGE TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC RESIDENTS | |
| | | Weekly calls with Local Officials | Issue Public Health Alert |
|  Individuals | Masks, distancing, extra precautions for high risk | Avoid larger events, limit time with non-family members | Limit trips outside home, avoid gatherings with non-family members |
|  Communities | Scale up public awareness, social media | Scale back public events | Cancel public events and limit community gathering points; Reverse 9-1-1 |
|  Organized Group Activities | Move activities outdoors where possible | Limit group sizes; Postpone indoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained | Postpone all indoor activities; Postpone outdoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained |
|  Pre K-12 Schools | Re-Enforce and monitor safety measures with staff, students and families | Maximize spacing, mask wearing, ventilation and hygiene to support in-person learning | In collaboration with Local Health Department and Superintendent, consider more distance learning above 25 |
|  Business & Sector Rules | REMINDE STAFF TO ASSESS THEIR SYMPTOMS DAILY AND NOT REPORT TO WORK IF THEY ARE ILL | | |
| | Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement | Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement | Municipal option to revert to Phase 2 |

**CT DPH would like to remind everyone of the 3 W's:
Wear your mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance!**

