CSDNB Health and Safety Update

October 23, 2020 | Previous updates are available on csdnb.org.

This CSDNB Health and Safety Update will be used to communicate the latest updates to our staff, families, and community members for as long as needed. Previous updates are available **on our website** and social media platforms. To our families, please ensure that your contact information is updated in PowerSchool. If you need assistance, you can contact your child's school. For additional information regarding our reopening, **please visit our information page on the CSDNB website**.

Over the past several months, we have been working with the New Britain Public Health Department to ensure that all recommendations and guidelines are followed as we prepare to safely reopen our schools. We will continue to meet weekly with them, along with our union leadership, to determine the status of whether we remain in our hybrid model or if we will convert to a full remote learning model for all students based on the data points mentioned below. In addition, ongoing daily communication between the New Britain Public Health Department and CSDNB will be maintained throughout the pandemic.

How will decisions be made regarding the status of our learning models (hybrid vs. remote)?

Decisions on remote vs. hybrid learning for our district are based on the indicators of the spread and prevalence of COVID-19 in Hartford County, our New Britain community, and our school district. Indicators will also include the effectiveness of schoolwide mitigation strategies, such as cohorting, sanitization, airflow, and more.

CSDNB, in direct consultation with the New Britain Public Health Director and the State Departments of Health & Education, will make a decision each week based on the current data. The decision to remain in hybrid or full remote rests with both the New Britain Director of Public Health and CSDNB Administration after reviewing all data that is made available to us by the State of Connecticut. Ultimately, however, Governor Ned Lamont and the State Departments of Health & Education can mandate that school districts go into a fully remote model in the event of a statewide COVID-19 outbreak.

Reminder to all caregivers: You have the right to make the decision at any time during the pandemic to have your child(ren) fully participate in a remote learning environment. Additionally, if your child is not feeling well or displaying symptoms related to COVID-19, please keep them home.

Current Learning Model Status as of October 23, 2020 - Hybrid Model

As of October 23, we will continue to remain in the hybrid model. This decision was made based on data provided for Hartford County and New Britain by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Indicators for Learning Models

The key **leading indicator** to support decision-making on the level of in-person education recommended by the Department of Public Health and Connecticut State Department of Education is the **number of new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population per day** (14-day average). Additionally, the guidance in Addendum 4 identifies **three secondary indicators, which are summarized in the following dataset (click to view):**

1. **Percent test positivity** (# of positive tests/# of total tests, 14-day average),
2. **Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population** (14-day average),
3. **COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance** (14-day average).

Leading Indicator	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Number of new cases of COVID-19 (14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day)	< 10 new cases per 100,000 per day	10 to < 25 cases per 100,000 per day	25+ cases per 100,000 per day

Reduce Person-Density in School Buildings

Secondary Indicators	MORE In-Person Learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Percent positivity rate *(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average)*	Secondary Indicators trending down to flat	**Direction of Change:** Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward	Secondary Indicators trending upward
Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population *(14-day average)*	No statistically significant changes to Secondary Indicators	**Speed of Change:** Any statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators	Consistent, statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators
COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance			

* Originally adapted from: the Harvard Global Health Institute's publication *The Path to Zero and Schools: Achieving Pandemic Resilient Teaching and Learning Spaces*, July 2020 and revised in consideration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance document Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making, updated September 15, 2020

Hartford County Data

As of October 15, the Department of Public Health is calculating metrics using a 14-day average rather than a 7-day average. This was last updated by the State of Connecticut on October 22, 2020 for the period of October 4 - 17, 2020. As noted below, Hartford County is in the moderate risk level for both the leading and secondary indicators.

	Leading		Secondary				
County	New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population per day	Leading Indicator Risk Category	Percent test positivity	New COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population per day	Percent COVID-19-like illness hospital ED visits	Secondary Indicators Risk Category	Reporting Period
Fairfield	9.0	Low	2.4%	0.7	2.8%	Low	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
Hartford	10.4	Moderate	2.1%	1.1	1.5%	Moderate	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
Litchfield	5.4	Low	1.3%	0.1	1.2%	Low	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
Middlesex	8.5	Low	1.0%	0.5	1.3%	Low	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
New Haven	8.2	Low	1.8%	0.6	2.7%	Low	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
New London	21.2	Moderate	2.9%	1.1	3.9%	Moderate	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
Tolland	6.3	Low	1.4%	0.1	1.1%	Low	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
Windham	12.0	Moderate	2.8%	0.9	1.6%	Moderate	10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020
Connecticut	**9.9**	-	**2.0%**	**0.7**	**2.3%**	-	**10/04/2020 - 10/17/2020**

New Britain Data

As of October 15, the Department of Public Health is calculating metrics using a 14-day average rather than a 7-day average. This was last updated by the State of Connecticut on October 22, 2020 for the period of October 4 - 17, 2020. These case and test counts do not include cases or tests among people residing in congregate settings, such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or correctional facilities.

New COVID-19 Cases Over 14-Day Period	New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Population Per Day	New Tests Over 14-Day Period	Percent Test Positivity
133	13.1	5,442	3%

Additional Resources and Information

COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 population and percent test positivity in the last 7 days by town

This dataset includes a weekly count and weekly rate per 100,000 population for COVID-19 cases, a weekly count of COVID-19 PCR diagnostic tests, and a weekly percent positivity rate for tests among people living in community settings. Dates are based on date of specimen collection (cases and positivity). These case and test counts do not include cases or tests among people residing in congregate settings, such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or correctional facilities. **Click for more information**.

CT School Learning Model Indicator

This page provides access to data on the key metrics developed by the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) and the Department of Education (CSDE) to support local district decision-making on the level of in-person, hybrid (blended), and remote learning model for Pre K-12 education. The information on this page is intended to supplement the comprehensive plan from CSDE, "Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together," which will serve as a roadmap for districts as they plan to reopen schools at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year. **Click for more information.**