



## CSDNB Health and Safety Update

October 30, 2020 | Previous updates are available on [csdnb.org](http://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.

We continue to meet weekly with the New Britain Public Health Department, 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 30, 2020 - Hybrid Model**

While New Britain has been classified as a red zone by the State of Connecticut, the New Britain Department of Public Health feels strongly that our current mitigation strategies in our schools are effective and are helping to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

From the Cases they have investigated, they have seen that the spread of the virus has been due to large private gatherings (rather than school or work settings) where mitigation strategies were not in place.

It is their recommendation that our schools continue to remain open and that all students and staff continue to practice the effective mitigation strategies we have been following not only in a school setting but also in community and private settings.

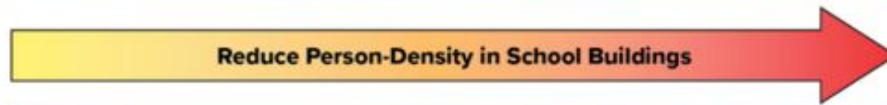


## Indicators for Learning Models

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       |
|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Number of new cases of COVID-19</b><br>(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 |



| 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  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Percent positivity rate</b><br>(# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 14-day average) | Secondary Indicators trending down to flat                   | <u>Direction of Change:</u><br>Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward                              | Secondary Indicators trending upward   |
| <b>Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population</b><br>(14-day average) | No statistically significant changes to Secondary Indicators | <u>Speed of Change:</u><br>Any statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators          | Consistent, statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators |
| <b>COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance</b>         |  |  |  |

\* 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

This was last updated by the State of Connecticut on October 28 for the period of October 11-24. As noted below, Hartford County is in the moderate risk level for both the leading and secondary indicators.

| County      | Leading   |                                 | Secondary               |  |  | Reporting Period |                                    |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|------------------|------------------------------------|
|             | 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 |
| Fairfield   | 16.3  | Moderate                        | 3.7%                    | 0.8  | 3.5%   | Moderate         | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| Hartford    | 13.1  | Moderate                        | 2.5%                    | 1.5  | 1.8%   | Moderate         | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| Litchfield  | 9.3   | Low                             | 2.0%                    | 0.2  | 1.2%   | Low              | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| Middlesex   | 11.0  | Moderate                        | 1.3%                    | 0.5  | 1.9%   | Moderate         | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| New Haven   | 12.6  | Moderate                        | 2.5%                    | 0.8  | 2.9%   | Moderate         | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| New London  | 20.9  | Moderate                        | 3.0%                    | 0.9  | 3.5%   | Moderate         | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| Tolland     | 8.2   | Low                             | 1.7%                    | 0.1  | 1.0%   | Low              | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| Windham     | 13.6  | Moderate                        | 3.0%                    | 0.7  | 1.6%   | Moderate         | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |
| Connecticut | 14.0  | -                               | 2.6%                    | 0.9  | 2.5%   | -                | 10/11/2020 - 10/24/2020            |

## New Britain Data

This was last updated by the State of Connecticut on October 29 for the period of October 11-24. 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.

| Total Cases Over 2 Weeks | COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Population Over 2 Weeks | Total Tests Over 2 Weeks | Percent Test Positivity |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 183                      | 18   | 5,523                    | 3.9%                    |

## 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.](#)

