



Hebron Public Schools



High Expectations, Bright Futures

Administration Office

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Dear Hebron Families and Educators,

I am writing to inform you that at this time we continue to see a high number of COVID cases in staff and students. This began on Monday with cases within the Parks and Recreation PREP before/after school program and then continued yesterday, and last night at Gilead Hill School. It is probable that there has been in program transmission within the PREP program and it is probable that there has been in school transmission within some Preschool and some Kindergarten classes at Gilead Hill School.

We have been in consultation with Chatham Health each day this week. We have moved quickly to quarantine all known close contacts to contain any potential outbreak in school. **Due to the speed at which we are continuing to have reported cases and due to the high number of quarantined students, Gilead Hill School will continue with Distance Learning and reopen for in-person learning on Tuesday, September 14th.** This will move us past the quarantine dates for the original cases within the PREP program. This is a needed safety measure, as outlined in our [COVID Operations and Distance Learning Plan](#) to contain a possible outbreak of COVID 19. There have been no additional confirmed cases reported for Hebron Elementary School this week. **Hebron Elementary School remains open for in-person learning at this time.** We continue to update our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) at the end of each day. **We highly recommend that all those in quarantine due to close contact obtain a COVID test.** Please call 211 for assistance in obtaining testing resources or contact your school nurse.

Some families have asked how they can help. Please get vaccinated if you are not already vaccinated. When vaccination is available for your child, please get them vaccinated. Do not send your child to school if they are sick. The Delta variant is often presented with stomach illness in addition to the below COVID symptoms. Contact our nurse when your child is sick and follow their instructions. Please do not send your child to school when they have been in contact with someone who is confirmed or presumed to be positive with COVID-19. Continue using the GHSnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us and HESnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us email addresses to communicate directly with our nurses. You can also use our after-hours email address COVID@hebron.k12.ct.us to reach our team. Help us reopen and keep open our schools. We have to work together to make this happen.

COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to discuss the following preventative measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet whenever feasible) between yourself and others when outside of your home.

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills or shaking chills
- Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

As a reminder, we updated our [COVID Operations and Distance Learning Plan](#) using the [Updated Guidance for the Use of Mitigation Strategies in Connecticut's PreK-12 Schools](#) from the Connecticut State Department of Education. We will continue to send any updates to you promptly. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move through this challenging time.

In partnership,



Thomas J. Baird, EdD
Superintendent