



# Hebron Public Schools



High Expectations, Bright Futures

*Administration Office*

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February 22, 2021

Dear Hebron Families and Educators,

I am writing to you with general reminders related to the safe operation of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide an update about vaccinations for educators. It has been four weeks since we had a confirmed positive case, yet it remains very important that we carefully and fully follow our mitigation strategies. This starts with mask wearing. **Please ensure that cloth masks fit snug around the nose and cheeks and avoid gaps. The fabric should be thick enough to not allow light through and there should be no exhalation valves or vents.**

**Families should not send children to school if they are sick or if they had contact with someone who is either presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19. If you are awaiting COVID-19 test results due to contact with others or for travel, you must wait until these test results are in before sending your children to school.** When in doubt, keep children at home and contact the school health office. Continue using the [GHSnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us](mailto:GHSnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us) and [HESnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us](mailto: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](mailto:COVID@hebron.k12.ct.us) to reach our team. Families continue to be very proactive with reaching out to our health offices. Thank you! The health office staff is happy to answer any questions you may have about COVID-19.

**This afternoon we learned that educators will start the vaccination process during the month of March, potentially as early as next week. We are still in the early planning process with Chatham Health for when and how educator vaccinations will take place. During the educator vaccination process, we may implement remote learning days to allow us to vaccinate our team as a group and/or have the need for remote learning days due to staffing shortages that arise as staff may have side effects that impact their ability to be in with students. We will share more information regarding any impact to the school schedule as soon as we can. Educator vaccination will have a significant positive impact on our ability to remain open for full in-person learning. We thank you in advance for your patience as we move through this process.**

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

Please use the [CDC's Symptoms of Coronavirus](#) for additional information on COVID-19 symptoms. Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. The updated [CT Department of Education's Reopening Addendum 5, Guidance for Responding to COVID-19](#) continues to be our guidance protocol document for exposure to COVID-19. Our [Response to COVID-19 Communication Protocols](#) is another good resource for information regarding our communication steps for a presumed or confirmed positive case.

While incidents of COVID-19 within schools can be challenging and cause stress in the community, we are confident in our [COVID Operations and Distance Learning Plan](#), the guidelines within the plan, and our collaboration with Chatham Health to respond to any incidents.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Baird, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools