



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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October 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The East Lyme Board of Education held a meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, and discussed the reassessment of students remaining in the hybrid model vs. returning to full in-person learning. At that meeting, I shared my recent conversations with Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) and our district Medical Advisor who have both voiced their concerns with the return to full in-person learning at this time for the following reasons:

- The current hybrid model may reduce transmission by limiting the number of potential COVID exposures.
- In the hybrid model, there are fewer close contacts due to the benefits of cohorting.
- Based on the latest LLHD reporting trends, the increased COVID numbers are supportive of waiting to move to full in-person learning.

The number of COVID infections throughout the Ledge Light Health District (Southeastern CT) have increased dramatically in recent weeks based on a recent report. The following depicts the COVID-19 case numbers dating back to the week of August 22, 2020 as reported by LLHD:

- Week of August 22-28: **5 new cases**
- Week of August 29-September 4: **18 new cases**
- Week of September 5-11: **19 new cases**
- Week of September 12-18: **26 new cases**
- Week of September 19-25: **60 new cases**
- In the 2 days since the last report was generated: **43 new additional cases** (As stated in a recent letter from the LLHD Director dated September 28, 2020)

At the current time, the East Lyme Public Schools will reengage in discussions around the idea of full in-person learning with our medical professionals in late October. The health and safety of our students and staff remains of utmost importance. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Central Office.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.