



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Trumbull Public Schools Community,

As I mentioned in my October 30 communication, I anticipated that we would face significant challenges due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in our State and Country. Over the past two weeks, the Trumbull Public Schools staff have been heroic in their efforts to educate our students. However, the most recent data released by the Department of Public Health on Thursday, November 12, shows that Trumbull had a COVID infection rate of 29 per 100,000 residents and we, like most of Fairfield County are now a “red alert” town. We anticipate that this weekend we will learn about a great many more positive cases that would impact our schools in a significant way. As a reminder, [Addendum 4](#) is used as a guide for making these decisions.

In addition, we have been managing through daily staff shortages. These shortages are mostly due to staff who are required to quarantine. However, as districts around us have closed, staff have run into their own child care needs resulting in additional staffing shortages. In addition to that, when you include staff absences due to cold and flu season, the staff situation has become extremely challenging.

This morning I met with my Reopening Advisory Committee to discuss the current situation. We reviewed the data and spoke extensively about the staffing situation. As a reminder, my advisory team includes Trumbull’s Director of Nursing and Department of Health Chief, school administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, our fire marshal, technology chair, and maintenance supervisor. **We unanimously agreed that the Trumbull Public Schools for all grade PK through 12 students will move to Full Distance Learning from Monday, November 16 through November 25.**

Moving forward, our Reopening Advisory Team will meet weekly to discuss the current health data and staff situation. I will communicate each week with all parents and staff about next steps. During these communications I will share an honest assessment of where we stand and what that means for reopening. It will be our goal to reopen our schools as the COVID cases drop and our staff come out of quarantine. I anticipate that throughout this winter we may flow from distance learning to hybrid and potentially back to full, in-person learning. This is not an ideal situation for any learner but we remain committed to the safety and education of all students.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.