

March 25, 2021

Dear East Hartford Community,

Greetings!

I am writing to you today to **confirm our intention** to take another step in our ReOpening Process and welcome back In-Person Learners (IPL), five days/week on **Monday, March 29, 2021** as previously communicated.

In our previous communications, we listed two important contingencies that we would be monitoring over the month of March to allow this to happen:

- *Regression of public transmission rates of COVID-19:* After demonstrating a significant decline from the surge that occurred during and after the New Year, our current rate of new cases of COVID-19/100,000 population has plateaued and settled between 17.3-18.4 over the past three weeks. As such, aligned to [New CDC Guidelines for Reopening Schools 2021](#), and in consultation with East Hartford Department of Public Health (EHDPH), we have reached a threshold enabling the safe re-entry of IPL students; and the
- *Faculty Vaccination Program:* As announced last month, all staff associated with school operations were prioritized in the state vaccination program. In response, we have worked closely with the EHDPH to schedule school-based clinics across our district. First dose vaccinations were completed for all interested staff on March 12th with second doses scheduled to be complete for April 9th. As such, the progress on this strategy has significantly improved the ability of the district to limit staffing issues that previously required school closure.

While we are thrilled by the success we continue to see in our collective fight against the virus, it is important for all parents, students, and staff to remain vigilant and committed to the mitigation strategies to stamp out COVID-19. As such, we will continue to wear masks, practice excellent hygiene, social distance as feasible, and engage in careful self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to coming to school.

Finally, in alignment to the expiration of the Governor's Travel Advisory that occurred on March 19th, we recommend that all staff and students with vacation plans follow travel-related guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Accordingly, effective immediately, there are no requirements to quarantine following out of state travel unless you have known exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual while traveling. Please note that any international travel requires a negative test result to return to the United States. However, recognizing the responsibility of this new flexibility, we continue to urge all travelers to ensure the safety of our entire community and voluntarily get tested upon return. Please note that there is no need to present a negative COVID-19 test unless you have traveled internationally.

As previously noticed, we invite you to join our Virtual Town Hall to discuss any of this information.

EHPS Community Group	Date	Time	Zoom Link
Parents/Guardians - English	3/25/21	5:00 PM	https://zoom.us/j/92838494847 Phone: +1 929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 928 3849 4847
Parents/Guardians - Spanish	3/25/21	6:00 PM	https://zoom.us/j/99636700587 Phone: +1 929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 996 3670 0587

Thank you for your continued support of East Hartford Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Nathan D. Quesnel

Superintendent

East Hartford Public Schools