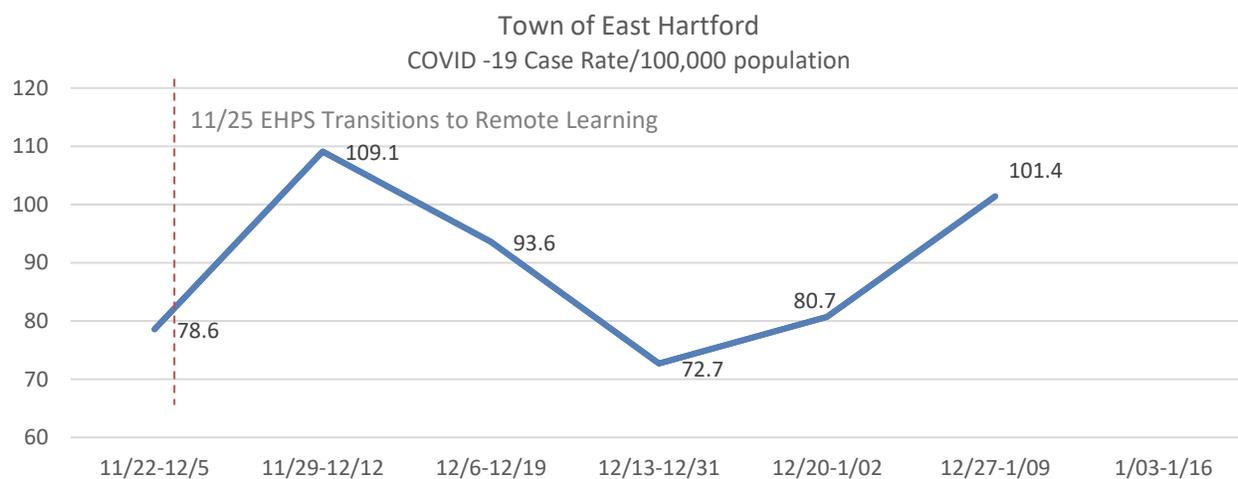


January 15, 2021

Dear East Hartford Community,

Last week we [communicated](#) our intention to use this week to monitor COVID transmission data as we anticipated bringing our In-Person Learners (IPL) back to school on January 19th. At that time, we stated our intention was to “follow the data,” and to closely monitor the health of our students and faculty as well as the public transmission data as we identified our next steps as a district.

Last night, we received data from the East Hartford Department of Public Health (EHDPH) which marked the rate of new COVID-19 cases/100,000 population at 101.4. This data reflects cases from 12/27/20 – 1/09/21. For your information, I have included a graph below that provides some historical context to the movement of the virus in East Hartford.



Data Source: <https://data.ct.gov>

Unfortunately, as you can see from this chart, we are continuing to experience a significant spike in transmission that is likely the result of holiday convenings. Based on un-official case rates collected from EHDPH our current model suggests that this spike will continue through the current week and then begin to regress pending community mitigation behaviors. While we all want our students back in person, we must ensure that we continue to adhere to the core principles of our plan, safe, incremental and adaptive.

As such, for the week of January 19-22, all students (PK-12) will remain at home as Remote Learners while our faculty and staff will be required to provide instruction from the school buildings. The reduced building occupancy will allow for ample social distancing for our faculty, while taking another step to incrementally move back toward normality.

We will receive our next data pull on Friday, January 22. While our sincere hope is to physically return students to school, **we want to be explicit that a definitive date of return is not clear at this time.** Rather, we will continue to evaluate the data and assess trends that will allow us to make an appropriate selection for our district model. Please expect continued communication regarding these decisions as we recognize our families challenges to arrange child care and work schedules. While we fully empathize with this

challenge, we share our community's commitment to keeping our kids and staff safe. We are close to the end of dealing with this pandemic and urge you to persevere.

We realize that this is a wealth of information that will certainly stimulate ideas, questions and concerns. In an effort to answer your questions and continue to communicate directly with you, we have scheduled the following virtual Town Hall to provide our parents and guardians an opportunity to provide feedback and respond.

EHPS Community Group	Date	Time	Zoom Link
Parents/Guardians	1/20/21	5:00-6:00 pm	https://zoom.us/j/96690890827
			Dial: +1-929-436-2866 ID: 966-9089-0827

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

Sincerely,



Nathan D. Quesnel
Superintendent
East Hartford Public Schools