

Superintendent's Update - Oct. 16, 2020 Montville Public Schools



What does a Red Alert Mean for Schools?

The Connecticut State Department of Education has developed guidance to help schools determine when community infection levels warrant consideration of closing schools. When there are 25+ new cases or more per 100,000 in the population, the state advises schools to consider whether to move to remote learning. In Montville, the rate most recently reported was 16.8 cases per 100,000 population.

The infection rate is only one factor that superintendents consider. We also look at our ability to implement mitigating strategies and our success at keeping infection rates low in schools. At this time, Montville still has not had any documented transmission of COVID-19 in our schools. Data from area districts actually indicates that the infection rate is higher for students who are fully remote learners than it is for students who are in school. When students are in school, we are diligent about enforcing mask wearing and social distancing, and this reduces the risk of transmission greatly.

We monitor our staff and student health data daily and will always take a very cautious approach when determining whether a student, class, or school needs to quarantine. At this time, based upon a careful review of all data, we believe that keeping schools operating in the hybrid model is the safest option for students. This decision will be re-evaluated daily working with the Department of Health, the Board of Education, and the Mayor.

