



## North Stonington Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DEBORAH MARTIN  
BUSINESS MANAGER

March 19, 2021

Dear North Stonington Public Schools families,

The latest numbers for positive cases for COVID-19 released by the Ledge Light Health District yesterday for our community are excellent. However, we still must remain vigilant following our Reopening Plan as well as following guidelines within North Stonington. We have a vacation coming up shortly and I am sure that many of our families will be traveling out-of-state. Regarding traveling guidelines, I have taken the following quote for travel directly from the state portal: "Mandates and requirements are not currently in place in Connecticut." At last night's Board of Education meeting, they approved a resolution that will not require that students and staff test negatively for COVID-19 as was required by the previous mandate, when traveling back into the state. However, they recommended that it would be wise to test anyway for peace of mind.

This Tuesday's Department of Health (DPH) and the State Department of Education (SDE) webinar updating superintendents with the latest guidance continues to follow the same theme as in previous weeks which was vaccinations and the return to in-person instruction. Our staff continues to schedule vaccination appointments and many have already received, or are about to receive, their second dose. The Governor announced that the vaccination rollout starting on April 5<sup>th</sup> will be expanded to include anyone 16 years or older. As discussed over the last 3 weeks, the DPH and SDE continue to emphasize that all districts should have students attending school in-person. A recent study conducted in Massachusetts released this week revealed, *"There is no significant difference in K-12 student and staff SARS-CoV-2 case rates in Massachusetts public school districts that implemented  $\geq 3$  feet versus  $\geq 6$  feet of physical distancing between students, provided other mitigation measures, such as universal masking, are implemented."*

At our weekly meeting with administrators and department heads, we continued to discuss our preparation for full-in 5-days per week. The administrators will be providing specifics of the full opening for their school prior to the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**IMPORTANT:** As I stated in last week's letter, in anticipation of the effect the second dosage of the vaccine may have on our staff and not being able to safely cover classes, Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, will be a virtual day for all students. I am providing this information ahead of that date so families can prepare accordingly.

As we have since last June, we will continue to review the town's data and adjust our plan accordingly. On behalf of the administrators and Board of Education, we'd like to thank everyone for your patience as we look forward to returning to a full-return and most importantly, resuming our normal lives.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Nero  
Superintendent of Schools