

# East Haddam Public Schools

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

We are grateful for the collective support from the community that has made it possible for us to complete two full months of in-person learning. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some information about our experience thus far and some guidance regarding the upcoming holidays.

Thanks to your input into the Ruvna Symptom App, we saw a general increase in allergy symptoms in the fall that correlated with the allergy season. We anticipate we will see cold/flu symptoms rise as we move through the fall. This information will be more and more helpful as the Department of Public Health indicates that decisions for possible closings in the future will likely be made at the district level. Most importantly, this system supports our nurses to focus on the direct care of students rather than making phone calls. [Addendum #4](#) of the state's [Adapt, Advance, Achieve](#) plan reflects some of the above-mentioned materials and has recently been updated.

Ready or not, the holidays are right around the corner. The pandemic will unfortunately and unavoidably alter the vacation plans of many of us. Decisions on travel and hosting visitors will add to having to make many unfair and difficult choices.

## For those planning to travel out of state:

The list of states on the Governor's Advisory Travel Ban List and the countries on the CDC Travel Health Notice do change on a regular basis. We are hearing about situations where a state changes status while someone is visiting, leaving the person with an unplanned quarantine. Please know that if you do travel to a state that is on the Governor's Advisory list or listed as a level 3 list by the CDC, you will need to follow the quarantine protocols as outlined in [Executive Order 9C](#).

## Are you planning for guests?

Guests from out of state are expected to quarantine for 14 days prior to visiting. Guests and others that have been exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure or if they are out of state guests. The guidelines for out of state visitors is also outlined in [Executive Order 9C](#).

## What do we mean by a 'Contact'?

[Addendum 5](#) of the Department of Education's Adapt, Advance, Achieve describes a 'contact' as a person that was within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for 15 minutes cumulative time in a day. While masks do mitigate transmission of the virus, the wearing of masks does not impact the definition of a contact.

The safest situation for all involved is for families not to come in contact with groups outside their normal cohort. While most will follow this protocol, we anticipate that some will have some gatherings with traveler(s) or who will decide to travel to other states. If your plans include activities that may require

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quarantine, we encourage you to email our Covid-19 Liaison at [covid.liaison@easthaddamschools.org](mailto:covid.liaison@easthaddamschools.org) with your plans and we will confirm how the quarantine applies to you. Our goal in making this request is to ensure a smooth transition for our students from vacations and holiday breaks back to school. We believe that any advance planning that can be done will help meet this goal.

The Connecticut State Department of Public Health reminded school leaders today that wearing masks, washing hands and surfaces, and distancing has been very successful in the efforts to mitigate transmission of the virus.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian S. Reas".

Brian S. Reas  
Superintendent of Schools