

Superintendent Report
Region One Schools
October 2021

Summary of Positive COVID-19 Cases in Region One
August 30 - September 30, 2021

School District	Month	Total Number of Cases to Date
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg	September 1 Case	0 - Students 0 - Staff Members 1 - Community Members
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	September 0 Cases	0 - Students 0 - Staff Members 0 - Community Members
Kent - Kent Center School	September 2 Cases	1 - Students 1 - Staff Members 0 - Community Members
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	September 5 Cases	1 - Students 1 - Staff Members 3 - Community Members
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	September 8 Cases	2 - Students 0 - Staff Members 6 - Community Members
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	September 4 Cases	1 - Students 1 - Staff Members 2 - Community Members
Sharon - Sharon Center School	September 6 Cases	2 - Students 0 - Staff Members 4 - Community Members

After the emergence of several cases throughout the Region at the start of the school year, there have been fewer positive cases in recent days. According to the DPH staff who meet with us on Tuesday mornings, COVID-19 cases appear to be plateauing throughout the State as positivity rates have been holding steady or slightly declining. Per the DPH, since vaccination is the most effective mitigation strategy, it remains important that we continue to provide access to vaccination opportunities. We will work with Griffin Health to stand clinics to provide that opportunity to our staff, students and community members. We thank everyone in Region 1 for closely following the mitigation practices to ensure that our case rates remain low in all of our schools.

Enrollment Update

October “Black-Line” Report

We have completed the enrollment report that is due to the Department of Education this month. The table below shows enrollment figures for this year compared to those from last year:

School	Number of Students October 2019 Numbers in () represent total number of students including tuition and staff	Number of Students October 2020 Numbers in () represent total number of students including tuition and staff	Number of Students October 2021 Numbers in () represent total number of students including tuition and staff
Cornwall Consolidated School	78 (88)	93(103)	99 (107)
Housatonic Valley Regional High School	342 (352)	305 (323)	324 (346)
Kent Center School	192 (208)	191(212)	184 (213)
Lee H. Kellogg School	70 (71)	69 (69)	70 (74)
North Canaan Elementary School	248 (251)	247 (247)	228 (234)
Salisbury Central School	276 (281)	305 (316)	297 (303)
Sharon Center School	103 (106)	109 (109)	96 (96)
Total	1309 (1357)	1319 (1378)	1298 (1373)

The Blackline numbers are misleading with respect to the population of all Region 1 schools with the exception of Sharon Center School. All of the other six districts have added students who are children of staff members or who attend from out-of-district and pay tuition. The blackline numbers are important in determining the amount of ECS funding that is received by each school district in CT.

Homeschooling

As of October 1, 52 resident students are currently not enrolled in a Region One school and are being homeschooled. The breakout by district is noted in the table below:

School	Number of Homeschooled Students 2019	Number of Homeschooled Students 2020	Number of Homeschooled Students 2021
Cornwall Consolidated School	0	5	1
Housatonic Valley Regional High School	9	14	15
Kent Center School	2	8	4
Lee H. Kellogg School	9	11	8
North Canaan Elementary School	8	9	14
Salisbury Central School	2	6	5
Sharon Center School	0	6	5
Total	30	59	52

Executive Order No. 13G/Vaccination Mandate - Vaccination status information has been collected for all staff. The vaccination rate throughout the Region is extremely high for all staff members. All applications for vaccination exemption have been collected and schools have established a testing schedule for those individuals for whom weekly testing is required. The town of Kent is standing free testing clinics on Monday and Thursday evenings and the Torrington Area Health District is working with the town of North Canaan to begin to hold testing clinics there as well. All contractors are providing letters of attestation with regard to compliance with the Order. Finally, we are keeping one set of records for all employees in the Central Office and a set in each building. Many thanks to the administrators, nurses and the Central Office staff for their collaboration and quick response to this new mandate from the State.

Bus Transportation - Michelle Christen has worked closely with Sam and Anne MMacNeil to minimize disruption to bus service. However, All Star remains thinly staffed. If any driver doesn't come to work for any reason, adjustments will have to be made to district routes and/or athletic schedules. Michelle will do her best to minimize impact if/when adjustments are needed and will communicate with schools immediately when changes are made. All Star has posted position openings to shore up its staff as insurance for the integrity of the schedule.

Screening for COVID-19 through PCR Testing - Quest laboratories met with me, administrators, the nurses and members of the Central Office staff on September 28 to finalize the plans for PCR testing in our schools. When we shared the number of consent forms received as of that meeting (153 total from all six schools), the Quest staff expressed some concern that the low participation rate (only 13 in two of our schools) may preclude some districts from participating in the testing program. We have sent a reminder

to all families to encourage those who wish to participate in the testing to send in their forms. If Region 1 schools are able to participate in this program, testing is tentatively scheduled to begin during the week of October 18th. Test samples will be collected by lab personnel. Data will be collected by the school nurses and families will be alerted about positive results within 24-48 hours of test administration.

COVID-19-Related MOUs 2021-2022 - The MOU for the certified staff is ready for signature. I met with the faculty association presidents on Tuesday, September 28 to answer their questions. BOE Chairs are meeting with the Association President for their school to review the document and customize it as appropriate. The document will be added to BOE agendas throughout October for discussion and approval.

I will be working on a similar MOU for the non-certified staff based on the certified agreement. It will be shared with BOEs as soon as it is ready for review.

Middle School Summer Program - Betsy Maury (Berkshire Taconic Foundation) is preparing the survey that was approved last month for distribution in October and will send the link to me. I will share it with all schools as soon as I have received it.

Middle School Sports and Activities - Anne MAcNeil has been working with Michelle Christen (All Star Transportation) to keep the Middle School Sports and Activities program up and running in the midst of the transportation challenges due to the shortage of drivers. Please click on [this link](#) to view her report. Many thanks to Anne and the athletic staff, Michelle and the participating students and families for their collaboration to make everything work.

State Bonding for School HVAC Systems - Early this month, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) conducted a survey to ascertain the number of schools in CT that have air conditioning. Based on the large number of schools and in view of the legislation regarding the need to upgrade HVAC systems, CAPSS is working with various parties at the State level to try to organize bond funding to support the installation of HVAC systems in as many schools as possible.

Superintendent Goals 2021-2022 and Beyond - At the most recent ABC meeting, the following goals were discussed as a multi-year to ensure a recovery from the pandemic, the continued progress of all students:

- The creation and implementation of a multi-tiered support system to support the social emotional well being of all students,
- The identification of achievement gaps for all students with targeted plans and support to close those gaps, and
- Exploration and planning to expand on the current offerings at HVRHS to align with 21st century and community needs.

I will be working on the details to support these goals as well as the measures that will be used to measure success and will discuss this information with the ABC Committee at the October meeting. Scott, Jill and I are also working with administrators to align the aforementioned goals with administrator and staff goals.

