

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4
CHESTER • DEEP RIVER • ESSEX



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October 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Schools:

Early this morning the Region 4 District became aware of a positive COVID-19 case impacting the school communities of our middle school and high school, necessitating the cancellation of in-person classes at both buildings today.

John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School will resume in-person classes tomorrow, Thursday, October 15th. After concluding a contact tracing investigation into the identified student case, local health authorities from the Connecticut River Area Health District and the Town of Essex Health Department have determined that it is safe for students and staff to return tomorrow to JWMS and VRHS.

This most recent case in our schools impacted a school bus that transported students to our middle and high schools. The administration and staff of JWMS, VRHS and the Region 4 Central Office have been working closely with the families of the student who has tested positive, as well as the families of students who had verified close contact with the known positive case. All individuals who may have had close contact with the known case have been communicated with by the health departments, as well as our school administrations effectively ending this investigation.

In my [letter to our communities dated 09/09/20](#) I shared the detailed process for how we address instances of COVID-19 in our schools, as well as the communication protocol to which we will continue to adhere. Because this most recent case was isolated to the middle and high school, we did not communicate with our elementary schools' communities this morning, as they were unaffected by this situation. It was determined by the health department, in keeping with their contract tracing protocols, that elementary students who may have ridden on the same bus later that day were not at risk.

Finally, I would like to recognize our local health authorities as well as our school staff for their continued collaboration and support of our schools and communities.

Thank you for your continued trust, understanding, and partnership during these uncertain times.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian'.

Brian J. White
Superintendent