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DCRSD Update 10.09.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM

All,

I am writing to wish everyone a fantastic long fall weekend. It is hard to believe that we have only had a few weeks of school through these uncharted experiences with everyone's high expectations. We appreciate your efforts to work with us as our educators do everything they can to provide your student(s) a re-imagined comprehensive education that does not focus on a clock or the way schooling was at the end of last year. We will continue to build in that direction but please note that each transition requires adjustments and tweaks to daily routines. We will not give up on a single student or class throughout this time.

We know that your world is still flipped as our world is still flipped too. The exhaustion you feel is the same our educators feel with their own families and children. Our educators will remain committed to you and your student(s) and I know they thank you for your understanding and ability to remain flexible.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's weekly COVID-19 public health report which lists each community's average daily case rate for COVID-19 listed the town of Dudley as a "red" community which means Dudley has experienced an average of eight or more daily cases per 100,000 residents over the last two weeks. This is obviously concerning but I am confident in the Board of Health and their ability to work through this.

For a point of clarity with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, our guidance has not changed from August 11, 2020 regarding this metric and decisions for the schools. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recommends a review of multiple data points to inform any changes to our current learning model during this school year. In an August 21, 2020 a DESE document also states that "*Solely receiving a red designation does not in any way automatically mean that all in-person [learning] ha[s] to be discontinued*". We will continue to work with our local Health Director, Boards of Health and School Committee to prepare for any recommended changes to our current model of learning. At this time, we have no recommendations or decisions to change our current opening plan. We look forward to in-person learning for grades 5-12 students next week, Thursday October 15, 2020.

To help with your understanding with the decision-making process for the DCRSD, attached you will a reference document titled *Dudley-Charlton Regional School District COVID-19 Decision Trees and Protocols For Staff and Families*. As the school year is underway we have proactively managed various scenarios around COVID-19 that might affect our staff and students. We consult through case-by-case communications and will provide notification to the community in the event that a positive COVID-19 case has been confirmed in our schools. We will not provide identifiable information but if staff or your student was a close contact, within 6 feet of the positive COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes, you will be contacted through tracing. To prevent close contact tracing, we expect all students and staff to adhere to all of our mitigating strategies including wearing masks, hand washing, and social distancing.

Another resource you may find helpful is a state COVID-19 testing map. You will find testing locations across our state to include the CVS Minute Clinic in Charlton MA.

Once again, I wish you a great long fall weekend.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools

DCRSD.Covid19.Decision-Making.pdf
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