

October 16, 2020

Good Afternoon Preston Learning Community,

Yesterday Preston transitioned from the “orange” category of COVID-19 infection rate as determined by CT DPH to the “red” category. This transition was partly due to an increase of 11 cases from September 27 to October 10, a change in the DPH system of determining infection rates which had previously been over 7 days but is now over 14 days. Further, Preston’s small population density number is more statistically sensitive than that of larger towns (DPH-reported infection rate is per 100,000 while Preston’s population is about 4638).

As of this writing, we have no positive cases that involve students in either PVMS or PPMS. Our COVID Leadership Team has been in constant communication with the department of health, UNCAS Health, and families that have reported being in a close-contact with confirmed case. Our mediation efforts are working – wearing masks, washing hands, and social distancing. It is crucial that we continue to sustain these efforts. Our continued vigilance related to implementing our mitigation strategies helps and this week is a reminder of the importance of wearing masks and not letting our guard down. For your information, most new cases seem to be transmitted through small social gatherings and sports events.

At this time, based on our most recent school data there is no reason to consider transitioning from our hybrid schedule to a fully virtual schedule.

However, as you know, things change quickly these days. Our entire administrative team will continue to monitor Preston’s COVID-related statistics very carefully. If Preston’s infection rate continues to rise or if we are directly impacted by a positive case, our situation will change. Please prepare now for a transition into fully virtual instruction if needed.

We know how difficult it is to live in a state of uncertainty. We need to be ready to take action, but we also need to be sure our actions are necessary and prudent. As always, we will operate with an abundance of caution and do what is best for Preston students, families, and Preston Public Schools employees.

If you have specific building level discussions please contact your principal’s office. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Stay steady. We recognize that these tumultuous times are a struggle for everyone. Thank you for everything you are doing to move forward

Be well.

Roy Seitsinger