



Southbridge Public Schools

132 Torrey Road, Southbridge MA 01550

Telephone: (508) 764-5450

October 16, 2020

Dear Families,

This week, Southbridge was placed in the “yellow” category in the [weekly COVID-19 report](#) from the Department of Public Health. This is an improvement from last week’s classification, signifying a reduction in the average daily incidence rate. This metric reflects the average daily incidence of COVID-19 diagnoses per 100,000 people over a period of two weeks. Southbridge had an average of 7.6 cases per 100,000 per this week’s report. We also still do not have any reported positive cases of COVID-19 among students or staff.

While this is good news for the health and safety of our community, it remains possible that we could see cases as the school year progresses. I’d like to assure you that if that happens, we will notify families promptly and with full transparency. In the meantime, I encourage students and families to continue using established preventative measures, such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and practices like handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer.

I would also like to update you on our inclement weather policy this year, as winter approaches. The process for snow day cancellations or delays will not change significantly. In the event of inclement weather that makes travel unsafe, you will be notified by our OneCall automated system. The decision will also be posted promptly on the homepage of our website and on our official social media channels. Students enrolled in any learning model (remote, hybrid, or in-person) will not be expected to attend school remotely on snow days. Additionally, if the snow day is on a Wednesday, our seven-day meal distribution process will be rescheduled for another day.

Yesterday, we received a shipment of 300 Chromebooks. These devices will be distributed to elementary school students and we expect another shipment of 1,000 Chromebooks to arrive next week. This next shipment of computers will be distributed to our elementary schools where in-person students will be introduced to them over the next few weeks. This will allow us to expand access for all of our students.

I would like to remind families that attendance is mandatory for all students in remote classes and all district attendance policies apply. Attendance is taken for the day and for each class period. Students should be at their computer, logged into class, and actively participating in classes with their cameras on. If you have questions about this or need further support, please reach out to your child’s school for more information.

We encourage you to update your contact information so that you will receive phone calls in the event of a snow day and for other important updates. If you would like to update your contact information or confirm that we have the correct information, you can write to help@southbridgepublic.org or ayuda@southbridgepublic.org. You can also call or text (774) 601-0082 with this information. For questions about your student's schedule or login credentials, please contact the school directly. I hope you have a restful weekend

Regards,

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Receiver/Superintendent
Southbridge Public Schools