



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2020

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Continuation of Weekly DPH/SDE COVID-19 Health and Safety Meetings

The weekly meetings with the State Departments of Education and Public Health (Tuesdays 8 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) were scheduled through September 29, 2020. Please note that these meetings will continue and for those previously registered, no action is necessary. Your current link will remain active for all meetings and you will continue to receive a Goto Webinar reminder an hour before the start of each meeting. If you have never registered, use the following link if you are interested in participating: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1833072109561771533>.

Local Health Director Link

The following link provides access to the local health directory on the State Department of Public Health’s (DPH) webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Local-Health-Admin/LHA/Local-Health-Administration---Site-Map>. The website for each local health department is accessible with multiple ways to contact local health and most list a number to call for after-hours response. If you have not yet established a relationship with your local health director, it is important to do so immediately. Additionally, please share your best contact information with your local health director to establish effective two-way communication. **Note:** The DPH has an “Epidemiologist on Call” that can be reached 860-509-8000 after regular business hours evenings and weekends.

School-based Asthma Reporting



The Connecticut Department of Public Health is announcing that school-based asthma reporting is currently underway for school year 2020-2021. Under Connecticut General Statute (CGS§ 10-206) schools are required triennially report to the Connecticut Department of Public Health all students who have asthma in every school in a school district.

More information on how to submit electronic reporting, training sessions, manuals and video tutorials can be found at the Asthma School Reporting webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Education-Management--Surveillance/Asthma/Asthma-Reporting-Forms>

Thank you for your participation in this important, state-mandated effort.

Asthma School Reporting on-line Training	
October 19, 2020	10:00 - 11:00 AM
October 21, 2020	1:00 - 2:00 PM
October 27, 2020	10:00 - 11:00 AM
October 29, 2020	1:00 - 2:00 PM
November 3, 2020	10:00 - 11:00 AM
November 5, 2020	1:00 - 2:00 PM
November 10, 2020	10:00 - 11:00 AM
November 12, 2020	1:00 - 2:00 PM

New School Nurse Orientation

Please stay tuned for information about the New School Nurse Orientation. Detailed information will be published in the November 2020 School Nurse Bulletin.

Date: Early December 2020

Location: Virtual Online

COVID-19 Trends Among School-Aged Children — United States, March 1–September 19, 2020

(The following information is from CDC Healthy Schools (CDC) <cdchealthyschools@cdc.gov>)

A new [MMWR](#) shows that since March 2020, more than a quarter million (275,000) school-aged children have tested positive for COVID-19 and rates of infection are twice as high in adolescents (aged 12-17) than in younger children (aged 5-11). COVID-19 cases among school-aged children (aged 5-17) increased from March through July. Since the peak in July, the rate of infection has been variable showing decreases and a recent rebound. Among children who were hospitalized or admitted to an ICU for COVID-19, a greater percentage reported being Hispanic or Black, or having underlying medical conditions. Schools and communities should use CDC's guidance to promote the use of multiple prevention and mitigation strategies. They must also be able to adjust these strategies according to spread of COVID-19 in their communities to reduce transmission risk for students, teachers, school staff, and their families. CDC has [guidance](#), [tools](#), [resources](#), and [indicators](#) to help schools make these decisions.

[This report](#) updates the information describing COVID-19 in children that CDC released in April, and describes demographic characteristics, underlying conditions, hospitalization, ICU admission, and deaths among children with confirmed COVID-19 in the U.S. Additionally, it can provide a baseline for monitoring COVID-19 trends in children and evaluating prevention strategies in school settings.

Read the [full report](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6939e2.htm?s_cid=mm6939e2_w) at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6939e2.htm?s_cid=mm6939e2_w

Celebrating 'CT Grown for CT Kids Week' October 5-9

Highlight of October National Farm to School Month

Here in Connecticut, October 5-9 is [CT Grown for CT Kids Week](#). Started in 2006 as a joint effort between the State Department of Education and Department of Agriculture, this week aims to celebrate and support local agriculture, public education, and their community commitment to the importance of healthy, nutritious meals in schools. Each year, legislators, food service directors, farmers, and students gather through farm to school activities and consumption of local products.

Students, families, and educators across Connecticut are invited to celebrate CT Grown for CT Kids Week by participating in the 5th annual HardCORE Apple and Pear Challenge. All you need is a Connecticut Grown apple or pear and to eat it down to its core. Post a photo or video to social media and use the hashtags #ctgrownforctkids and #applecrunch to be involved. Educational toolkits and more activities are available on the [Put Local On Your Tray](#) website.

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