



COVID-19 Pandemic Status Report
Respectfully submitted by Francine Coss, Superintendent of Schools
October 18, 2021

Background

2019-2020 School Year:

The COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic began with formal communication to the district from the Connecticut State Department of Education on January 27, 2020. The last day of in-person instruction in the 2019-2020 school year was Friday, March 13, 2020. Students were instructed through virtual means for the remainder of the school year.

2020-2021 School Year:

Thomaston Public Schools reopened to in-person instruction in a hybrid model (50% of students attended school in-person at one time) on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. The Connecticut State Department of Education required school districts to provide instruction through in-person and virtual means and also required districts to provide virtual (online) instruction to all students who elected to temporarily opt-out of in-person instruction. Thomaston Public Schools Kindergarten through Grade 6 opt-out students received instruction from a dedicated virtual-only teacher while opt-out students in Grades 7 through 12 received instruction virtually and simultaneously from the same teacher as their in-person counterparts.

Full, in-person instruction (100% of in-person students attend school at the same time) began on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 with in-person instruction occurring for all students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; Wednesdays were early dismissal remote learning days for all students.

From November 30, 2020 through January 15, 2021, remote instruction was the exclusive mode of instruction for all students. The district returned to the full, in-person instruction model (100% of students at one time) on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 with in-person instruction occurring for all students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, with early dismissal remote learning Wednesdays for all students.

Beginning on April 21, 2021 and continuing through the last day of the school year (June 9, 2021), Wednesdays were converted to in-person, early dismissal days for in-person students.

2021-2022 School Year:

As a contingent to disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act funds, the Connecticut State Department of Education required districts to prepare and submit a “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan” by June 2021. The Connecticut State Department of Education revoked the choice for students to opt-out of in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year. Students who did not wish to return to in-person instruction would have the choice of disenrollment from public school and participation in homeschooling which would be the full responsibility of the student’s parent/guardian.

In August 2021, the Thomaston Board of Education passed a resolution to allow virtual instruction for students who were quarantined or isolated due to COVID-19; these COVID-19 quarantined/isolated students could participate in Thomaston Public School provided virtual instruction during their quarantine/isolation period and receive school attendance credit for meeting the participation requirements associated with virtual instruction.

School began on September 1, 2021 with full, in-person instruction, five (5) days per week. Virtual instruction was and continues to be made available to only enrolled students who are quarantined or isolated due to COVID-19.

Around this time, Governor Lamont signed Executive Order 13D and subsequent Executive Orders 13G and 14a which required school staff and contract service providers to schools to be vaccinated or be subjected to weekly COVID-19 testing. All Thomaston Public Schools staff and all contract service providers are compliant with the aforementioned Executive Orders.¹

¹ This status is as of the date of this report; this status can change if unvaccinated staff and unvaccinated contract service providers do not provide proof of weekly COVID-19 testing and attestation of said testing.

Appendix I: Town of Thomaston COVID-19 Vaccination Status and COVID-19 Test Results

The information below displays townwide COVID-19 data collected by the Connecticut Department of Public Health about the residents of Thomaston, Connecticut.

- [COVID Data Report - September 14, 2021](#)
 - [COVID Data Report - September 21, 2021](#)
 - [COVID Data Report - September 28, 2021](#)
 - [COVID Data Report - October 5, 2021](#)
 - [COVID Data Report - October 12, 2021](#)
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- [COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by Town-Age - September 14, 2021](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by Town-Age - September 21, 2021](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by Town-Age - September 28, 2021](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by Town-Age - October 5, 2021](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by Town-Age - October 12, 2021](#)