We, the undersigned, wish to express our concern over the planned opening of Shepherd Hill Regional High School on March 15, 2021 given the updated CDC guidance from February 12, 2021. In order to maintain an appropriate standard of care and safety for students and staff, the School Committee has a duty to consider this new guidance, along with any recommendations from the experts on local Boards of Health of Dudley and Charlton. In fact, not doing so would be negligent and reckless.

Please consider delaying model C for the high school or at least weigh SHRHS context against the new CDC guidance until mitigation strategies can be strictly implemented. This guidance can be found here <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/Operational-Strategy-for-K-12-Schools-through-Phased-Mitigation.pdf</u>. Please note that the CDC calls for the maintenance of 6" of social distancing at the secondary school level. This step obviously would not be able to be in effect if all cohorts are merged.

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