

# GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

21 October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

It has been a challenging week for schools in Vermont. Several more schools (none in any of the Grand Isle Supervisory Union) have had confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) has identified that at one of those schools transmission to other students occurred. At GISU we are working hard to have effective routines, processes, and procedures to keep the virus out of the school as well as to prevent transmission in case an asymptomatic case does make it into the schools. I'd like to commend our students, faculty, staff, community, and administrators for the work we have all done so far and encourage everyone to stay focused and not let our guard down.

At the end of this letter I have included a sample of the letter GISU will use to communicate with the community in the event that a member of the GISU learning community who attends school in one of the buildings is identified by the VDH as testing positive for COVID-19. We appreciate your understanding that, due to medical privacy laws, we are not able to release the name of any individual with COVID-19.

It is also possible that at some point in the future, students, faculty, staff, or administrators will be required by the Vermont Department of Health to quarantine as a direct contact of a COVID-19 positive case. A direct contact is someone who has not tested positive for COVID-19, but has been within six feet of someone who has tested positive for more than fifteen minutes. People who interact with a direct contact (secondary contact) are not considered to be at risk for COVID-19 transmission, and are not contacted by VDH Contact Tracers unless the direct contact later tests positive for COVID-19. We will not communicate information about direct contacts unless that person later tests positive for COVID-19 and then we will use the letter described above.

Last week I shared [information about our plan](#) for creating opportunities for students to be able to access more in-person learning. I am happy to share we have begun to implement those plans and so far things are going smoothly.

Our partnership with UVM and their pre-service educators is going well. Some examples of the work happening with UVM includes:

- Preservice teachers leading supported work sessions
- Book Groups
- Preservice teacher using our high leverage concepts and skills to support math instruction
- Read out-louds highlighting science and social studies
- Students and preservice teachers forging supportive relationships

I'm proud of the work everyone - including all of the students, faculty, staff, administrators and community - is doing and I appreciate your support and understanding as we move forward. As always please feel free to contact me any time or join one of our weekly community meetings.

# GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

## Community Meeting

Tonight's Community Meeting will be a general discussion, I will talk about cases of COVID-19 throughout schools in the state of Vermont, and will talk about travel. As usual there will be a time for community members to ask questions and share their experiences. The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below.

Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

[meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi](https://meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi)

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 573-349-3062 PIN: 810 989 343#

\*\*Please note tonight's Community meeting will be recorded and posted to the COVID 19 communications section of the GISU website

## Travel Reminder: WHEN TO QUARANTINE

As families start to plan for the holidays and any weekend travels, please remember: **Anyone who travels outside of Vermont must follow the Department of Health's guidance around quarantine before returning to school.** Please review the [cross state travel map](#) to determine quarantine requirements based on the area you visited. This map is updated weekly on Tuesdays (formally Fridays) and is populated with raw data from Johns Hopkins University. The Department of Health also has a [FAQ page](#) with answers to many popular questions about traveling or hosting out-of-state visitors in your home. More information is available on the [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 travel site](#).

Thank you for working with us to support the GISU mission to ensure all members of the Grand Isle Supervisory Union Learning Community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Clark*

Michael J. Clark  
Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
Superintendent

# GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

**DATE**, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

On **DATE**, we learned that a student or staff member within the **XXXX** School District tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing by the Vermont Department of Health (VDOH) began immediately and has been completed. Contact tracers from the VDOH would have contacted you directly if your student had been considered a close contact of the person who tested positive. The individual affected will be working with the VDOH to determine when they can return to school. We remain in contact with the VDOH and will take the steps necessary to protect the health of our students and staff.

What can you do? We recommend that you take action to help limit the spread of COVID-19, even if your child is not experiencing symptoms. This includes:

- Making sure your child is wearing a mask.
- Making sure your child is washing their hands.
- Maintaining 6ft of physical distancing
- Keeping your child home if they are sick.
- Calling your primary care provider if you or your child have symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Parents and guardians of students exhibiting symptoms are asked to contact their family physician, the VDOH, and their school principal. Staff exhibiting symptoms are asked to do the same in addition to notifying the District Human Resources Department. As always, the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families is our top priority. For more information about COVID-19, its spread, and contact tracing, please refer to this [link from the Vermont Department of Health](#).

Thank you for understanding that, due to medical privacy laws, we are not able to release the name of the individual with COVID-19. We ask for compassion and sensitivity for all those involved. We are closely monitoring this situation and will provide you with updated information as it becomes available. The VDOH has advised that XXXX School is safe to remain open for school in the same model it was operating before the COVID-19 confirmation. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's principal.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Clark*

Michael J. Clark  
Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
Superintendent

SAMPLE

SAMPLE