

# GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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

2 December 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

I hope you had a safe and relaxing holiday. This week's community letter is a **plea to the community to stay vigilant and to follow all of the executive orders, guidance, and guidelines that are in effect in Vermont**. Active cases of COVID-19 are at the highest points they have been in the state. Based on the latest [information provided on December 1, 2020 by the Vermont Department of Health](#), Grand Isle County is one of the safest places in Vermont with only five (5) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the entire county in the last 14 days. A result of this relatively low rate of infection has allowed us to safely create more opportunities for students to participate in in-person learning. As the number of positive cases spikes in other counties, school districts are having to consider potentially reducing in-person opportunities for students (this is recent [communication from Franklin Northeast Superintendent Lynn Cota to the communities in FNESU](#)). **Your help now is critical.**

On November 20, Governor Scott's Executive Order suspended multi-household social gatherings. The Order prohibits multiple households from participating in the same social gatherings, including group trips, gatherings, related ceremonies, holiday events, parties, celebrations, and sharing accommodations with anyone outside of your household. At a recent press conference, Governor Scott shared that 71% of positive COVID-19 cases in Vermont were connected to social gatherings.

On November 23, the Vermont Secretary of Education, Dan French, issued [guidance to schools](#) related to the [Governor's Executive Order](#) and multi-household gatherings. On November 24, and again on November 27, Governor Scott spoke to the impact multi-household gatherings could have on students and staff being able to remain in-person in our schools.

As you know, GISU has strived to be a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, faculty and staff. The suspension of multi-household social gatherings acts as an extension of the state's travel guidance and in turn, the Governor has asked families to quarantine if they attend or host a multi-household gathering. The guidance issued by the Agency of Education allows, but does not require, schools to include questions about multi-household gatherings on their health screening; and subsequently exclude children from school if they have participated in multi-household activities until they have completed the required quarantine.

By sending your student to school you are verifying that you are in compliance with the Governor's order. Due to the many variable scenarios that a household may have, at this time we will not be asking our students and staff this question as part of the daily health screening. We do, however, expect families to do the right thing and monitor their own activities related to multi-household gatherings

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and quarantine in accordance with the guidance. **The safety of all depends on every person and family following the guidance.**

As a reminder, if your child needs to quarantine for any of the following reasons, please contact your school:

- If your child is [symptomatic](#)
- If your child has been a [Close Contact](#) to a COVID-19 positive person
- If your family and child have had [Non-Essential Travel](#)
- If your family and child have been to a [Multi-Household Gathering](#)

In addition to these measures you can greatly reduce your risk of spreading and/or catching the COVID-19 virus by following some of the same routines, procedures, and practices that we follow at school, at home, including:

- Wearing a mask
- Practicing social distancing
- Washing your hands with soap and water REGULARLY
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Isolate if you have any symptoms

*\*Much of this information comes from or is based on a recent letter shared by Superintendent Amy Minor with the Colchester School community.*

**We really all are in this together and we all need to do our part.**

According to the [Vermont Department of Health's School Based COVID-19 website](#) there were 16 new cases of COVID-19 in Vermont schools last week (The week was shortened due to Thanksgiving break). Overall there have been a total of 128 confirmed cases in Vermont schools.

## **Community Meeting**

Tonight's Community Meeting will talk briefly about the increase of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in the state. 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, December 2, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

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[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

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