

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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22 December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Late last night, December 21, 2020, we learned that a person in our Alburgh Middle School learning community tested positive for COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution we moved the Middle School to remote learning today. This morning, we met with the Vermont Department of Health and worked to identify everyone who might be considered a close contact. We have also reached out by telephone to any member of the Alburgh/GISU learning community who might be considered to be a close contact and have provided them with information about the need to quarantine. Based on the possible exposure date, the quarantine period ends on December 31, 2020. At this point the VDH has confirmed that it will be safe for all students to return to school on January 4, 2021. We will remain in contact with the VDH and will take the steps necessary to protect the health of our students and staff.

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 VDH has advised that the Alburgh School Campus is safe to remain open for school in the same model it was operating before the COVID-19 confirmation.

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 6 ft 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 VDH, our District Nurse Emily Dousevicz (edousevicz@gisu.org) and their school health assistant. 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](#).

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

Beth Hemingway

Beth Hemingway
Alburgh Community Education Center
Principal