

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

9 December 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

Last week I shared 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** and that active cases of COVID-19 are at the highest points they have been in the state. Unfortunately cases of COVID-19 in Vermont have continued to grow. While it's true that based on the latest [information provided on December 7, 2020 by the Vermont Department of Health](#), Grand Isle County continues to be one of the safest places in Vermont with only ten (10) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the entire county in the last 14 days, you'll notice that the number of cases in the last seven (7) days doubled from five (5). Our relatively low rate of infection has allowed us to safely create more opportunities for students to participate in in-person learning. I do have to highlight: as you know I'm very concerned that as cases increase and we have staff members who are required to quarantine as direct contacts of active cases; we do not have enough substitutes to sustain our in-person learning at the levels we have been. **Your help remains critical.** Please follow the executive orders of the governor and if you or your child needs to quarantine please do so. In addition, 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 symptoms

The faculty, staff, administration, and I continue to be committed to providing as much in-person learning as we safely can and we need your help.

Please remember, Governor Scott adjusted the [Governor's Executive Order](#) to include a general ban on multi-household gatherings (please see the executive order for specific exemptions). The Vermont Agency of Education issued this [guidance to schools](#) related to the multi-household gatherings. At the end of last week, the VT AOE released this [FAQ on multi-household gatherings](#). We believe the best approach regarding multi-household gatherings is for families to be aware of the expectations and we trust that everyone who is a part of the Islands Learning Community will follow all aspects of the Governor's Orders.

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. Reasons to quarantine include:

- 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](#)

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- If your family and child have been to a [Multi-Household Gathering](#)

According to the [Vermont Department of Health's School Based COVID-19 website](#) there were 20 new cases of COVID-19 in Vermont schools last week (a 25% increase). Overall there have been a total of 158 confirmed cases in Vermont schools.

Community Meeting

Tonight's Community Meeting will talk briefly about the increase of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 and the importance of following the guidelines. 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 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

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