

January 12, 2022

**The Folsom School Will Be Closed on Thursday, January 13, 2022 and Friday, January 14, 2022. This closing is due to more than 50% of the student body either testing positive for Covid-19 or needing to quarantine/isolate as a result of being in close contact with someone with a positive case of Covid-19 as well as a shortage of faculty and staff available to work.**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Folsom has had a large number of confirmed cases of Covid-19. Over the last week we have been notified by families, or identified through contact tracing or surveillance testing, 19 positive cases of Covid-19 in a school with a student body of approximately 140 students. We were notified of 10 of those cases overnight. Additionally, multiple symptomatic students and staff are awaiting test results. As a result of where these cases have emerged, there are potentially close contacts in every grade with the exception of 2nd grade.

**In an effort to safely return to in-person learning as quickly as possible, the GISU and South Hero School District are working with the Vermont Agency of Education to secure a supply of take-home antigen tests. However, at this point that supply is not available to the GISU or Folsom school. We will update you on our progress as information becomes available to us.**

If your child is not showing symptoms of illness, they may return to school on Tuesday, January 18th when we reopen. If your child is showing symptoms on Tuesday morning, please call the school to report their absence and the nature of their symptoms.

Principal McKelvie and Superintendent Clark will be available via a Google Meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6 p.m. to answer questions for families who have them.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

Join by phone

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

## **If at any point your child develops symptoms:**

- Contact your child's health care provider by phone to find out if your child should be evaluated. Let them know your child is quarantining at home because they are a close contact of someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If your child is having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the hospital.
- If your child doesn't have a provider, call 2-1-1 to be connected to a clinic in your area.
- People with mild illness can treat their symptoms at home: get plenty of rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take fever-reducing medication if needed.
- If your child has symptoms, household members and other close contacts should also quarantine at home.

## **When to get medical care immediately:**

If your child has trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or changes in color on their lips, gums, face, around the eyes, or nails, seek medical care immediately. When you call for medical care, tell the provider or 9-1-1 that your child is quarantining at home because they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

## **How does COVID-19 spread?**

COVID-19 spreads when a person infected with COVID-19 breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus when they cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breathe. People who are closer than 6 feet from the person with COVID-19 are most likely to get infected. You can get COVID-19 if these droplets or particles are breathed in, land on your eyes, nose or mouth, or get on your hands, and then you touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Vaccines are the best way to protect your child against COVID-19. When your child is fully vaccinated, they are much less likely to get sick and less likely to spread the virus to others. Everyone who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine should get vaccinated. It's free, quick and easy. Talk with your child's health care provider if you have questions or find a vaccine site near you at [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine). Everyone, including children who can't be vaccinated, can take prevention steps to protect themselves and others. Learn more at [healthvermont.gov/StaySafeVT](https://healthvermont.gov/StaySafeVT).

Thank you for understanding that, due to medical privacy laws, we are not able to release the names of the individuals with COVID-19. We will continue to communicate changes and updates with you. With your participation, we believe we can create a safe and fun experience for your children.

**Please call the Vermont Department of Health at 802-863-7240 (option 8) if you have questions or concerns.** More information is available at the Health Department website: [healthvermont.gov/COVID-19](https://healthvermont.gov/COVID-19).

Many thanks,

Michael Clark, GISU Superintendent

Susan McKelvie, Principal

Jenny Brownell, Health Assistant

Kristie Barber, GISU District Nurse/Covid Coordinator