

# GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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

19 January 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

**I am sorry to report that as of the writing of this letter, the Rapid Antigen Tests that were discussed at the Governor's Press Conference on 1-11-2022 have not been shipped to schools. We do not know when the Test Kits might arrive but will keep you posted. On a more positive note we did receive some Rapid Antigen Test Kits which can be used in the school setting.**

Since we have returned from the Winter Break we have had over 50 positive cases of Covid-19 reported in the school community. As I shared last week we had to close the Folsom and Alburgh schools due to 50% of the student body not being available to be at school as well as potential staffing shortages. So far this week all four buildings are operational, although we have had positive cases in every building except Folsom.

I want to make sure that everyone is aware that guidance is evolving very rapidly. We know how frustrating changes that seem to happen everyday can be. Please know we are doing our best to respond to what we receive from the VT Agency of Education and Vermont Department of health as quickly as we can. We just received a new batch of guidance which will likely result in significant changes especially when we receive the number of test kits we have been promised. The new guidance will put more of the responsibility for testing directly on families with schools acting more as a distribution center for test kits..

Understand that the Omicron Variant:

- Has a shorter incubation period,
- Has a higher transmission rate, and
- Has a shorter infectious period and typically less severe symptoms especially for vaccinated individuals, and
- Is widespread in the community

Local pediatric doctors share their perspective in this document: [Vermont Pediatricians Support Adapting Policies on Testing & Contact Tracing to Keep Schools Safe](#). The following is [a link to a recording](#) of a meeting that local Pediatric health experts held with school staff talking about the new guidance and Omicron in general (passcode R?y01.t+).

Omicron is moving very quickly and changing our dynamics. **The most important things you can do:**

- Keep your child home if they are sick
- Make sure your children get vaccinated and boosted when they are eligible. [Find a location near you.](#)
- Always make sure your child is wearing [a mask](#) when recommended or required.
- Make sure your child is [washing their hands](#).
- Call your primary care provider if you or your child has [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Practice social distancing when possible.

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## **Community Meeting on January 19, 2022**

The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below. I will talk about high case counts, talk about the state of the current guidance, and update on our supply Take Home Test Kits. As always, questions are welcome!

Wednesday, **January 19, 2022**, 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#

Thank you for helping to ensure that all members of the GISU learning community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever changing world.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Clark*

Grand Isle Supervisory Union, Superintendent