

25 January 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

**I'm pleased to share that yesterday the two-pack rapid antigen tests that allow the GISU to transition to the [Test at Home Protocol](#) arrived. We will transition to this new protocol immediately.**

This [most recent guidance](#) shifts schools from health related activities like contact tracing and testing to distributing test kits. We will continue to notify our community about COVID positive exposures in our schools, but will shift responsibility for testing to families. When the school receives information about a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID, we will notify any person who is in the classroom that they are a presumptive contact. We are experiencing multiple positive cases of Covid-19 in our schools daily. Beginning today we will adjust our practice of sending a general letter to the community notifying them of a positive case in the school to tracking cases in a [dashboard type tool on the GISU website](#). The dashboard will be updated each weekday by 4:00 p.m. You can find this dashboard as a button on the homepage of our GISU website - gisu.org. Weekend positive cases will be commingled and reported to the dashboard on Monday mornings by noon. The dashboard will report school, date, grade, and number of new cases reported that day by grade. We believe this approach will be more transparent and will provide families with the information they need to make informed decisions.

We will make test kits available to families of the presumptive contacts for home testing. **As long as a presumptive contact does not exhibit symptoms or receive a positive outcome on a home test, they can continue to attend school and school activities.** The Vermont Agency of education has provided this [Frequently Asked Questions Guide](#) to help clarify the new guidance. If you would like a one page guide of what to do if you or your child is a close contact or has symptoms of Covid-19 you may find this [FLOW CHART](#) helpful in making decisions.

Families can pick up tests from school or have them sent home with their students. Families will administer the test and, based on the results, send their student to school (negative and no symptoms) or keep them at home (positive and/or symptoms). **Maintaining in-person learning relies on families to not send students to school when they are sick.**

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

- Use the testing protocols to screen for Covid but understand; if you have symptoms of any illness you must stay home.
- 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.

# GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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## Federal Free Covid Test Program

[Please click here for more information about the Federal Free Covid Test Program](#)

## Community Meeting on January 26, 2022

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

Wednesday, **January 26, 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