

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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5 January 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

Happy New Year.

I wish I had good news for everyone and maybe I kind of do. We still have in-person learning in all four school buildings today. I do also have to let you know that our Faculties, Support Staff, and Administrators have worked incredibly hard all year to keep in-person learning working safely in the schools. Every morning the teams at the buildings look at who is able to work and which classes need to be covered and then they shuffle staffing to cover everything in the best way possible. Every building has had days where if we had been short one or two faculty or staff members more, we would not have been able to run school safely. Vermont is seeing a major increase in cases and I am very concerned that these increases will eventually affect the staffing we have available. Families should develop plans, like they do for snow day, in case we reach a point with staffing where we have to close school for a short period of time. Like a snow day, if this happens it will likely be a call first thing in the morning. We are doing everything we can to prevent having to close from happening and we know our families are too. We appreciate that you have sought out vaccinations and boosters for your children, you send them to school with appropriate masks, you keep them home when they are sick or have been exposed to the Coronavirus, and you exercise the other safety measures we have been talking about for the last twenty months. We are all in this together and we thank you for doing your part. With all of that said, across the Grand Isle county we had 5 positive cases of Covid-19 identified in schools yesterday.

Earlier this week I [shared a letter](#) with you that had updated guidance and guidelines for COVID-19. This guidance represents a significant change. We have had to perform contact tracing for the positive cases which have been identified. Currently VDH has not supplied us with Close Contact letters and we have crafted our own. Here is an [example of the letter you will receive if your child is identified as a close contact](#). Please keep in mind that as VDH updates its guidance and resources this is likely to change. Here is the updated [general notification letter](#) which is similar to what we have been sending out to communities as a general notification that a case has happened in the community. Please remember all of these communications are available on the www.gisu.org website under the [Superintendent Covid 19 Communications tab](#).

Community Meeting on January 5, 2022

The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below. I will talk about high case counts, new guidance and contact tracing, and the new Take Home Test Kits availability. As always, questions are welcome!

Wednesday, **January 5, 2022**, 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#

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