

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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

7 April 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

As I shared last week, we are waiting for the updated guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education and Department of Health. We anticipate this guidance will be released at the end of this week or sometime next week. Once any new guidance is released, we will review it to determine if any changes are possible and if they make sense.

The only updated guidance released at this time reflects the rise of concern about the health of students and their ability to participate in PE and other physical activity (including recess) after a COVID-19 diagnosis. The Vermont Agency of Education has released new [Return-to-Play after COVID-19 Infection](#). This is adapted from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American Academy of Pediatrics, reviewed by UVMCC Pediatric Cardiology on March 3, 2021. To summarize, the guidance states that before returning to play, ALL children/youth with COVID-19 infection should be seen by their pediatric medical home after illness resolves. Even children with asymptomatic or even mild symptoms must be seen by their pediatric medical home to receive medical clearance before returning to activity, including school physical education (PE). Those with moderate or severe symptoms over the age of 12 may be required to have a ECG prior to participation in sports or physical activity.

Tonight's community meeting will focus on providing a forum for students to share directly with me their thoughts on returning to more in-person learning. I want to thank the community for the feedback they have provided to me in March. So far the majority of the feedback has included:

- People who would like to be in-person learning 5 days a week.
- Others shared how important the remote only option is and asked that we be sure to keep that option available.
- Still more thought that what we are doing right now is working and why would we change with such a short period of time between April Break and the end of the year.

This feedback and the publicized guidance will aid in determining if any changes are possible and if they make sense.

At the April 14, 2021 Community meeting we will share what we are thinking the plan for school will be when we return from April Break.

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As a reminder, it is important that we all follow the guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus. I urge everyone to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by following these recommendations:

- Making sure you and your child are wearing a mask.
- Making sure you and your child are washing your hands.
- Maintaining 6 ft of physical distancing.
- Staying home and keeping your child home if you or your child are sick.
- Calling your primary care provider if you or your child have symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. The [Vermont Department of Health's Website](#) has lots of information about best practices related to COVID-19.

Community Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The link and telephone number for this week's community meeting are below. Tonight's meeting is a forum to allow students to share their thoughts about returning to more in-person learning. Please join me and your students to hear their thoughts.

[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 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