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Committed to cultivating within all our students the knowledge, skills, and character essential to becoming purposeful, productive and engaged members of their world.

January 13, 2022

Dear CVSU Parents and Families,

This week our schools have faced some of the highest number of COVID cases we've seen all year. Our nurses are working harder than ever to identify classrooms in which close contact has occurred and notifying families and staff on how we are proceeding with each incident. Our teachers, staff, and administration are working harder than ever to support our children's social-emotional needs and ensure learning continues. Our support staff are stepping up in every manner possible, substituting, taking on extra duties, assisting with contact tracing, and supporting our students and each other in every manner possible. I cannot express how grateful I am for their dedication through very tough conditions.

Below are the number of positive cases on campus at each school in the last seven days:

Northfield Elementary School	12
Northfield Middle High School	24
Orange Center School	6
Washington Village School	13
Williamstown Elementary	22
Williamstown Middle High School	23

The numbers above only represent the number of cases where it is known the individual was on campus when positive. We are also aware of many additional individuals from our schools who have tested positive, but were not on campus while infected.

I cannot express how important it is to ensure you are keeping your child home with any COVID-related symptom and ask that you continue to encourage your child to wear their mask properly at all times. Please ensure they have a properly fitted mask and know how to adjust it so it does not easily slip off their face. If your child arrives to school without a mask or a mask that does not fit properly, we will continue to provide a mask for them.

On Friday, the Agency of Education announced changes to their policies around contact tracing, testing, and quarantine. Although policy is changing, we are dependent on COVID test kits for these policies to take effect. Knowing that, I have developed protocols based on the available supplies schools have on hand. I wanted to make sure everyone knows the different options that may be put in place based on available supplies and the number of close contacts we identify.

Although you may have heard that contact tracing is ending, that is not the full story. Schools are switching from an individual contact tracing to a classwide notification. That simply means that when we have identified a positive

individual, we will determine which classrooms (and other areas of the school) the positive case came into contact with and the entire group will be notified that they may have been in contact with a positive case. We will still be required to identify unvaccinated students so we can implement the options below, but all potential close contacts will be notified of an exposure moving forward.

The following is a brief overview of the protocols that we will be implementing at this time. They are in order of priority, with Take Home testing being our goal while only using quarantine or school closure when absolutely necessary.

1. Take Home Test to Stay- This is the newest policy implemented by the state, however it is dependent on schools having Take Home Antigen Test kits available. When we have these supplies in stock, nurses will identify unvaccinated close contacts and send home a 5-day rapid antigen test kits. Unvaccinated close contacts will have the ability to come to school each day as long as a parent administers a rapid antigen test each morning through the fifth day of exposure. Tests should be administered before coming to school and results must be negative to attend school. Vaccinated individuals who are notified that they may have come into contact with a positive case will have the option of taking home a 2-day antigen test kit. Vaccinated individuals are not required to test in order to attend school, but may use the 2-day test kit to ensure they have not contracted the virus.

2. On Site Test to Stay- When we only have In School Antigen Test Kits, nurses will transition back to this procedure and test students when they arrive on campus. This process has been in place since October and will occur through the fifth day of exposure when implemented.

3. Quarantine- When we do not have In Home Antigen Tests or In School Antigen Test Kits, OR if we do not have the capacity to test all identified students each day due to the amount of unvaccinated close contacts, we will need to quarantine these individuals and continue on campus learning for the other students. Students who are required to quarantine may return to school on day 5 if they are symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication.

4. School Closure- Although this is a last resort, there may be times where the number of positive cases and close contacts exceed our ability to remain open. School closure will also be contemplated when we have concerns with safely staffing a school on any particular day.

On the following page, a chart provides further detail on how we are proceeding as cases are identified. I hope this information provides an explanation as to why you may see different procedures being followed depending on the available supplies and number of close contacts identified.

Additional information from the Department of Health is available below:

[What to do if you are a close contact?](#)

[What to do if you test positive for COVID-19?](#)

Before I end, I must share that despite COVID, I am seeing incredible learning taking place each day. I am on campuses and in classrooms on a frequent basis and I can personally share that your children are in good hands with our teachers and staff. In addition to their training and expertise, they have hearts of gold and a true interest in the wellbeing of each and every child. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in ensuring our schools remain safe and open,



Matthew Fedders
Superintendent

Central Vermont Supervisory Union

COVID-19 Protocols When a Positive Case is Identified in School

Once a positive case is identified, contact tracing will consist of identifying the classrooms (and other locations) in which the individual spent a period of their school day. All individuals will be notified that they may have come in contact with a positive COVID case. This communication will notify families whether we are able to send home test-kits, offer on-site testing, or whether the unvaccinated close contact needs to quarantine.

Asymptomatic vaccinated students may continue to attend school

***Vaccinated=** completed the 2 dose series.

***Boosted=** received the injection. NOT 2 weeks post injection. As soon as you get your booster shot you are considered boosted.

- Symptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must quarantine and may return to school on day 5 if symptom-free and fever-free for 24-hours without medication. Testing is strongly recommended for anyone who is symptomatic.
- Positive cases must isolate and may return to school on day 5 if symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- 2 antigen tests beginning on day 4, or 1 PCR/LAMP test on day 5 is recommended before returning to school.

Take Home Test-to-Stay	In-School Test-to-Stay	Quarantine	School Closure
Used when the school has take home antigen test-kits available.	Used when school does not have an inventory of take home antigen kits, but has in-school antigen test kits.	Used when school does not have any test kits, or when the number of students who require test-to-stay exceeds the staff's ability and time to complete rapid testing during the school day.	Used when the number of positive cases and close contacts exceed the school's ability to remain open or there are not enough staff to safely operate school.
<p>Unvaccinated close contacts will be sent home with a 5-day Test-to-Stay kit.</p> <p>Testing will be conducted in the home each morning prior to coming to school.</p> <p>Students may continue to attend school if their home test is negative each day.</p> <p>If your test is positive, contact the school and begin isolation period. Negative tests do not need to be reported to the school.</p> <p>*no parent consent needed as parents are administering the test.</p> <p>If a parent chooses not to test their child each morning, the student will need to quarantine for 5-days.</p> <p>Vaccinated individuals who are notified that they may have had close contact may request a 2-day take-home kit.</p>	<p>Unvaccinated close contacts will participate in in-school Test-to-Stay 5 days.</p> <p>Testing will be conducted at school each morning.</p> <p>Students may continue to attend school. If their in-school test is positive, parents will be contacted to pick their child up from school.</p> <p>Negative tests will not be reported to families. Students will continue to attend school.</p> <p>*parent consent is required to participate in Test-to-Stay.</p> <p>If the parent chooses not to consent, the student will need to quarantine for 5-days.</p>	<p>Unvaccinated close contacts will quarantine and may return to school on day 5 if symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication.</p>	<p>All students will stay home from school.</p> <p>Parents and staff will be notified of school closure through the automated phone call.</p> <p>This day will need to be made up at the end of the year, unless a waiver for the lost school day is approved.</p> <p>School staff will communicate with families whether remote instruction will take place.</p>

This information is subject to change at any time based on policy changes with the Department of Health and Agency of Education