

Orange East Supervisory Union

Serving the towns of Bradford, Corinth, Groton, Newbury, Ryegate,
Thetford, Topsham, and Wells River

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Phone: 802.222.5216 Fax: 802.222.4451

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March 30, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

In order to support efforts for distance learning during the time of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we have developed the following strategy in partnership with our mental health partners to take this pandemic very seriously but still provide the social emotional and mental health support your children would receive while attending school. We are aware of the impact and increased stress that disruption of routine can cause and our hope is to mitigate the stress through a reliable and predictable change in service delivery that supports the needs of the students and families we serve.

At this point, all school counseling and other related services have moved to a telehealth format which may include phone and/or video conferencing. The expected benefits include:

- Improved access to social emotional and mental health services during stay home, stay safe order
- Continued support for students who have accessed these services prior to school dismissal on March 17th

It is important to note that school professionals are less able to collect information than if the service was being provided face to face. There could be some technical problems (video quality, internet connection) that may affect the Telehealth Session and therefore affect the decision making of the school counseling professional. Reasonable and appropriate efforts have been made to eliminate any confidentiality risks. We ask that you be aware of your location and those around you when participating in services of a confidential nature; treating sessions as you would if you were attending them in the school setting.

In an effort to support you and your child, who may be experiencing increased anxiety related to COVID-19, the following is available:

- OESU has set up a social services support line at 802-822-0513 with extensions to school counselors and related professionals (see attached). In addition, please feel free to email questions or concerns to socialsupport@oesu.org.
- Clara Martin Center continues to provide 24 hour Emergency services: 1-800-639-6360 and are accepting new clients, providing Telehealth services. For an intake, please call 802-222-4477
- Little Rivers Health Care is also providing Telehealth services and are accepting new clients. You can contact them at (802) 222-9317

Finally, The Social Services team will be working to provide resources to students and families during this difficult time which can be found on the OESU website under COVID-19 updates: <https://oesu.org/covid-19/>

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us by phone 802-822-0513 or email socialservices@OESU.org.

Sincerely,

Cate Beaton, MA, LCMHC

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