Orange East Supervisory Union

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

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November 23, 2020

Dear BMU Community:

Good morning, contact tracing was completed late last evening. At this point, anyone considered a close contact has been notified. If you were not notified, that is good news, you are not considered a close contact by the Vermont Department of Health. If you have concerns about your own health, we urge you to speak with your primary care physician. You are not required to quarantine or be tested if you were not considered a close contact.

We are sad to report that late last night we learned about a second positive case at BMU. We are working with the affected person and the Vermont Department of Health to contact trace this case. Once this process is complete we will inform families. We do not know if these cases are connected. As we work today to trace this second case, we will keep that question at the forefront of our tracing efforts. We hope to know more later today or tomorrow. Both of the individuals who tested positive worked in various grade levels throughout the school.

We are asking you all to remain vigilant in monitoring yourselves for COVID symptoms. If you have symptoms, we urge you to reach out to your physician to discuss being tested for COVID. If there are more cases we want to know, and we ask that you keep us informed. Our ability to work together for the greater good of all who live within these towns, is more important than ever before.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at emilie.knisley@oesu.org or scott.blood@bmuschool.org or the Vermont Department of Health.

Many thanks,

Emilie Knisley
Superintendent of Schools

The most important things you can do:

- Make sure your child is wearing a mask.
- Make sure your child is washing their hands.
- Keep your child home if they are sick.
- Call your primary care provider if you or your child has symptoms of COVID-19.

What is COVID-19?

A new coronavirus causes COVID-19, which is an illness that was discovered in 2019. Coronaviruses are a type of virus that are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface. There are many kinds of coronaviruses including some that cause respiratory illnesses, like the common cold. The specific symptoms of COVID-19 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

Creating learning communities… where students are engaged and successful

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

How does COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 spreads mainly from having close contact with someone who has a COVID-19 infection. The virus is thought to spread by droplets from person to person when they speak, cough, or sneeze. Droplets travel less than 6 feet. When droplets from another person get in your mouth or nose you can inhale into your lungs. This virus can be spread by people without symptoms.

How can parents and guardians help prevent COVID-19 from spreading?

- If your child is sick, keep them home.
- Make sure members of your household wash their hands often using soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Make sure every member of your household covers their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow, and then washes their hands afterwards.
- Wear a mask in public when you cannot stay 6 feet apart from other people.

We are working with the Health Department to keep our community safe.

- We continue to follow the Health Department's guidance for Childcare and Summer Programs.
- We are cleaning and disinfecting per the Health Department guidance.
- Employees and sick children will not return to work until they are healthy.

Learn more about getting tested in Vermont.