

Dr. Darrell J. Lockwood
Superintendent

CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT, SAU #82
22 Murphy Drive * Chester, New Hampshire 03036
(603) 887-3621 Fax (603) 218-7207

Sheryl Rich
Business Administrator

Donna Consalvi
Executive Assistant

November 16, 2020

Re: Update on COVID, reminder we are going to Remote Learning and more.

Dear Staff, Parents and Community Members:

We were notified yesterday that we have had a staff member test positive for COVID-19. This individual has not been in the school building since November 6th. Therefore, there were no close contacts with this individual at Chester Academy. This was not a school transmission.

Recently, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their definition of [close contact](#) to include someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. In school settings, close contacts based on these guidelines could include exposures in a classroom, in other school spaces, on the bus, or at an extra-curricular activity.

We continue to have a number of staff members and students in self-quarantine due to coming in close contact with someone in the greater community or within their families who has tested positive for COVID-19. The self-quarantine period begins after the last exposure to the individual with COVID-19 and lasts for 14 days. Parents and staff members should continue to notify us of these situations so that we may track them appropriately.

All students will move to Remote learning on Wednesday. We want to remind you that we are planning for all students to be working remotely beginning this Wednesday, November 18th and continuing through Tuesday, November 24th. We plan to return to the Hybrid Remote model on Monday, November 30th. You may review the full school calendar [here](#).

During Remote learning, the cafeteria will continue to provide **Meal pick up** with free meals for all students. Pick up will be on Wednesday from 12:30 PM to 1 PM for meals for Wednesday through Friday and on Monday during that same time period for the Monday and Tuesday meals. Anyone interested in meal pick up should complete [this survey](#).

We requested and the School Board approved a change to the Hybrid Remote learning model. Beginning on Monday, December 7th, we will be welcoming all first grade students back into the building. Principal Lacroix will be contacting parents and families of first graders in a separate email regarding this planned change.

During a press conference this past Thursday, Governor Sununu, Commissioner Shibiñette and Dr. Chan provided updates on NH's response to COVID-19. They discussed new **Travel and Quarantine Guidance** which I know is a priority to our families. Students and Non-essential workers traveling outside of New England should still quarantine for 14 days upon their return to NH. However, these individuals may now shorten their quarantine to 7 days if they quarantine for 7 days and then test negative for COVID-19. Please keep this in mind as you are making holiday plans.

We would like to emphasize that none of the positive cases in Chester thus far have been transmitted in school. We want to thank our students, parents, staff, and administrators for creating and establishing a safe and healthy learning environment in our school.

We continue to closely monitor this situation and will provide you with any further updates, if necessary. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Principal Lacroix or me.

Stay healthy, and safe! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Darrell J. Lockwood

Darrell J. Lockwood, Ed.D.