

December 23, 2020

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

I want to take a moment to wish all of you a most wonderful, safe and peaceful holiday break. My hope is that you find time to enjoy our beautiful Vermont snow and do the things you love with the people you love.

Over the past months, it has been wonderful to see the learning, spirit and engagement of students and staff in our schools. I also know from our remote teachers that students continue to both cultivate independence and engage in learning at a high level. Although it has been an unusual year with the presence of COVID-19, our students are thriving! I want to thank our entire system of teachers, staff, and our families for supporting our students in such a meaningful way.

We are pleased that we have been able to keep our doors open for in-person learning, largely because our staff and students have steadfastly adhered to our safety protocols. And, it goes without saying that it is of the utmost importance that everyone continues to abide by the State's health and safety guidelines, especially important during the holiday season.

On that note, during yesterday's news conference, Governor Scott relaxed the ban on multi-family gatherings by allowing Vermonters to socialize with people from one other trusted household between **December 23rd** and **January 2nd** without needing to quarantine. The State travel policy has not changed, so any travel outside of Vermont still requires quarantine.

Please remember that you must quarantine and stay home for 14 days or 7 days with a negative PCR test for:

- All travel to and from Vermont except for essential travel.
- If you feel sick, have a temperature, or have symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you have been directed to quarantine due to close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19 yourself.
- If you are awaiting COVID-19 test results.

We also ask that individuals stay home from school and school activities if a member of their household is sick or needs to quarantine.

We were also excited to learn that winter sports teams are clear to begin practices with procedures in place to ensure masks and physical distancing at all times. Practices for Lamoille North teams, including both school-sponsored and informal, student-led practices, can begin as early as January 4th, provided schools are open for in-person instruction. Look for additional information about specific practice schedules and guidelines from your Athletic Directors soon.

The well-being of our faculty and staff, our students, and the entire community has been our highest priority this year. By working together, we can make sure that our schools stay open for in-person instruction and that our families and staff remain healthy and well.

Thank you again for all that you have contributed to making this year successful in light of obvious challenges.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts or questions. Until then, have a wonderful break and know that we look forward to January 4, 2021!

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Lamoille North Supervisory Union