

November 10, 2020

To All Lamoille Families and Staff:

We have put together an FAQ document based on our conversations with staff and families over the last two days. The answers to the questions posed are based on our experience thus far and could be subject to change. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your principal, school nurse, or myself.

### **POD/CLASS QUARANTINE FAQ**

#### **1. How does the District know when there is a positive case?**

- a. In our experience thus far, either the person who has tested positive or a family member of that person has gotten in touch with either the principal or school nurse.
- b. While this hasn't happened yet, the Department of Health (DOH) could also be the first to notify the District of a positive case.

#### **2. Will the District always know when there is a positive case? What is an example of a scenario where the District may not be contacted?**

- a. No. If a Lamoille North community member tests positive and has had no contact with the school in their infectious period (infectious period = 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms OR, if no symptoms are present, 2 days prior to the date that the positive test was taken) and decides to not tell the administration, the DOH will not call us and contact tracing in the school will not take place.
- b. An example may be that an asymptomatic person tests positive on November 24<sup>th</sup>. That person will not have been in school since November 20<sup>th</sup>. The DOH would not conduct contact tracing for school members or contact District administration.

#### **3. What happens when there is a positive case? How quickly will I know if this influences my child(ren)?**

- a. Once we get a notification, one of the members of the District/School team calls the DOH immediately. The school nurse puts together a "line list" which is essentially a list of people who we know have come in close contact with the person who is positive. We share this line list with the DOH as soon as possible after the first notification.
- b. The principal of the school emails the families of the effective POD/class to: 1) alert them to the positive case; 2) provide directions for virtual instruction; and 3) give initial guidance regarding quarantine.
- c. Once off the phone with the DOH, school personnel will begin calling families within the POD. Our experiences so far indicate that families of the affected POD/class will know within approximately 3 hours of administration being alerted through either an email or phone call.
- d. Depending on the timing of the notification, contact tracing begins either that day or the day after.

**4. The District is asking for siblings to quarantine in the event of a positive case of another sibling or family member. Why and what will their education look like?**

- a. The number one question we have gotten in connection with our positive cases is regarding siblings. We are asking siblings to quarantine until negative test results come back. This is different from guidance from the DOH. We are asking for this to happen out of an abundance of caution knowing how hard it is to keep siblings isolated from each other in a home. This step is also extremely helpful in putting both staff and the community at ease.
- b. Our teachers will do the best they can to keep the learning going for siblings affected by quarantine. Google Classroom, Seesaw, or other connection means will be the primary source of information; however, families should contact classroom teachers to collaborate during the quarantine. If there is a need, we will get laptops to families as quickly as possible.

**5. Are these absences due to quarantine excused absences?**

- a. Yes. Please let the school office know.

**6. I've been contacted that my child's POD/CLASS has a positive case, what do I do?**

- a. Plan for your family's quarantine. Reach out to your support network regarding groceries and anything else that may be necessary to get through the quarantine. We are happy to help as much as possible as well.
- b. Answer the phone to the school and the DOH. The DOH number to look for is: (802) 863-7240.
- c. Follow DOH instructions on registering for a test on Day 7 after exposure or call your pediatrician's office for further medical advice.

**7. Whose decision is it to put a POD/class into virtual learning versus the whole school?**

- a. The superintendent makes this call. Her goal is to keep in-person learning going; however, she needs to take into consideration what the DOH is saying, staffing levels to maintain safety, and the emotional resiliency of staff and families regarding the cases. This decision is not taken lightly knowing that it is an incredible stress on families to have the building closed.

**8. What should I do if I have questions?**

- a. Email or call the superintendent, principal, or school nurse. We are ready to answer any question that does not speak to individual health or private information. You can reach me at [fkelly@luhs18.org](mailto:fkelly@luhs18.org) or 851-1347.

Thank you!

Flo Kelley, R.N., COVID-19 Coordinator