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Superintendent of Schools  
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March 22, 2021

Dear Families,

In my role as Superintendent, I see the need shared by children of all ages for engagement, consistency, instruction, and social interactions provided by our schools. That is why we have worked so hard to turn our small school size to our advantage and to maintain in-person classes as much as possible since September.

During this school year, we have had to remain flexible. We listened to the guidance of the state's epidemiologists and consulted daily with our local health care professionals. Our interpretations of public health guidelines have evolved to a more nuanced and strategic approach to education in the pandemic.

Our staff has undertaken impossible tasks this year, adapting curriculum, maintaining vigilance on public health requirements, conducting rapid contact tracing, and educating our students with strength, compassion and humor. We knew our schools had to prioritize educators' health and wellbeing too. We advocated for more testing and vaccination options for our staff this year. Working with our UCVH partners, we offered vaccines to all school staff on March 12 as part of NH Phase 2A.

At this point in the school year, we are seeing the fruits of our labors. Our academic progress data shows that our students are making up ground that was lost during last year's remote instruction. More importantly, access to their peers and our staff is helping students maintain emotional stability through these difficult times.

We are constantly attuned to changes in guidance from our health partners. SAU #7 will continue to align with the guidelines issued by the NH DHHS. In light of recent announcements by the Governor and NH DHHS surrounding COVID-19, please take note of updated information for New Hampshire residents\*:

Families who wish to travel domestically may do so without initiating a student quarantine on return, but students must strictly adhere to masking, social distancing, and hygiene protocols for a full 14 days upon return. Testing is recommended on days 3-5 after return to help elicit asymptomatic infections.

International or cruise travel will continue to require student quarantine on return, with testing recommended on day 7 or after. Students with a negative PCR result on day 7 or greater are permitted to cease quarantine, but must strictly adhere to masking, social distancing, and hygiene protocols for a full 14 days upon return. Students who are fully immunized or who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within 90 days preceding the return date are exempted from this requirement. Proof of

**Mission Statement**

**To prepare all SAU 7 students for success in whatever path they choose.**

immunization or COVID-19 diagnosis within the prior 90 days must be on file with your child's school nurse if an exemption is requested.

Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be excluded until the requirements to discontinue isolation are met per routine COVID-19 protocol. Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 variants, this includes those who are fully vaccinated and/or who have had COVID-19 within the prior 90 days. The full travel guidance document can be found here: [NH COVID-19 Travel Guidance](#).

Also due to the ongoing changes in COVID-19 guidance, SAU #7 will no longer request that parents complete the daily COVID-19 screening tool prior to sending students to school. However, we respectfully request that you continue to monitor your student at home and note that symptomatic students are not permitted to attend school. All prior COVID-19 guidance continues to apply, including requirements for COVID-19 testing or extended absences in the presence of symptoms, communicating with your child's school nurse regarding household cases of COVID-19, and complying with isolation, quarantine, and exclusion requirements.

\*Please be advised that travel updates pertain to NH residents. Our neighboring states may have different quarantine requirements that must be followed. Vermont does not permit travel without quarantine, meaning VT requires its residents to quarantine after travel. If you are a VT resident, please visit the [Vermont Dashboard](#) for current VT travel guidance.

There is always room for improvement and our staff continues to look for new ways to serve our students and to support one another. As warmer weather arrives and the percentage of people in our communities getting vaccinated rises, we are beginning to imagine a time beyond the COVID-19. We are finding our way through the complex challenges of this pandemic together.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, your principal, or your child's school nurse.

Sincerely,

*Debra Taylor*

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

SAU # 7