



Griswold Public Schools

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December 12th, 2020

RE: Notice of Positive Covid 19 Cases & Move to Full Remote Learning through December 23rd, 2020

Dear Griswold Public Schools:

We hope that this letter finds you all in continued good health and spirits. Griswold Public Schools received timely confirmation today that two members of our school community have tested positive for the coronavirus, (COVID-19), at Griswold Elementary School. In addition, we are actively monitoring several outstanding cases where testing results are expected in the next few days.

Our administrative team and I are committed to timely, transparent communication and anchoring our decisions to safety first and an abundance of caution. **Griswold Public Schools will move to full remote learning beginning Monday, 12/14/20, and will remain on full remote learning through Wednesday, 12/23/20.**

Although we hope to resume the hybrid model on Monday, January 4th, 2021, we will continue to monitor community, state, and regional metrics with the Town of Griswold and the Uncas Health District. We will update the community prior to January 4th, 2021, to confirm whether or not we can resume the hybrid model on January 4th.

All affected individuals are home, and they have been instructed to continue to remain home for 10 days (self-isolation) to 14 days (quarantine). These individuals have been provided with additional, specific instructions to follow prior to returning to school. Family members have also been instructed to self-quarantine and get tested. The last day these individuals were in our school buildings was on Monday, December 7th, 2020.

Individuals who are considered a "close contact" have been contacted directly or will be contacted directly by our school administration. Close contacts will be provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take. Please know that there is no evidence, at this time, of school building transmission. However, recent data on Griswold community transmission rates, and, by association, the rising rates in Connecticut and in New London County, have factored into our decision.

COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to discuss the following preventive measures with your children and family members and to practice these measures at all times, in school, in the community, and in the greater public:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) between yourself and others when outside of your home.

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills or shaking chills
- Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. Know that there are a number of local COVID-19 testing sites for your convenience.

Grab & Go Meals will continue to run at Griswold Middle School on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 7:45 am - 12 noon.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or any of our administrators.

Sincerely yours,



Sean P. McKenna,
Superintendent of Schools