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wrvsu.org

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To the Communities of WRVSU:

I want to begin by thanking all of the Task Force members and community resource partners for their efforts in drafting the WRVSU Covid-19 recommendations. I expect a draft of the recommendations to be submitted for my final review on July 9th.

Therefore, they will be ready for release the week of July 20th. We are fully aware that further guidance from the Agency of Education and Department of Health could occur prior to the opening of schools. Therefore, the administrative team will continue to prepare and be ready to implement further guidelines in the event that they are released later this summer. Please note that there could possibly be a slight delay in the opening of schools due to the need for additional planning/preparation time by our faculty/staff in the week leading up to the opening of schools. The announcement regarding revisions to the 20-21 school calendar will occur no later than Friday, July 17th.

I want to address the following questions:

1) Will online/at home learning be available for children with higher-risk family members, or will non-school assisted home-schooling be the only avenue for this?

This will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The school will pull together a support team that includes the nurse to assess the appropriateness of remote learning due to the Covid-19 related health risks. I expect the exemptions to be addressed more specifically by the Department of Health and Agency of Education soon.

2) How will notification be sent if someone in the school is diagnosed with Covid-19? In the past, things such as lice outbreaks have not been communicated at all, so parents did not have a heads up to do extra checks and catch it early.

We will be as communicative with families and the community about Covid-19 as we possibly can be, while also maintaining HIPPA. Our student, faculty/staff, and community members safety is the utmost priority.

Serving the Schools and Communities of
Bethel - Chelsea - Granville - Hancock - Rochester - Royalton - Sharon - Stockbridge - Strafford - Tunbridge

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3) As the holidays approach, will there be a way for families to homeschool and self-isolate for, say, two week time-spans in advance of seeing higher risk extended family, like grandparents?

The Secretary of Education has clearly stated that we need to prepare for in-person instruction this fall. We are moving forward with that planning/preparation. We will also continue to implement current attendance policies, while also ensuring that we are working with families to excuse appropriate absenteeism due to sickness/health concerns. The decision regarding excused absences due to quarantining will be based on the current health guidance and recommendations provided by the Governor's Office and Department of Health during that particular time.

I will be sharing upon completion the WRVSU Task Force final draft of recommendations. I want to encourage you to review them, ask questions, and provide feedback. In addition, a reminder that you can submit questions under the Covid-19 section of the WRVSU website.

With great enthusiasm for the work ahead,

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU