

LOWVILLE ACADEMY and CENTRAL SCHOOL

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December 31, 2020

Dear Lowville Academy Community,

Lowville Central School District has been contacted by Lewis County Public Health based on a report of six positive cases of COVID-19 affecting students in the elementary, middle, and high school. No students were present at school during the infectious period.

As you can imagine, this is a high number of positive cases among students. We also understand that most cases of COVID-19 are currently due to extended family gatherings over the holidays. **At this time, we plan to open school on Monday, January 4th, 2021 as planned.** If that changes due to additional COVID-19 cases or due to large numbers of individuals under quarantine, the District will make an announcement through our automated calling system. Please continue to monitor our website and other media outlets for updates.

The District is working collaboratively with Lewis County Public Health who will be performing the contact tracing process pursuant to their protocols. The contact tracing process identifies anyone who comes into close contact with someone who has COVID-19. The Lewis County Public Health officials will communicate with any students or staff found to be in close contact with a positive case. Contact tracing slows the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect you, your family, and our community. If you are contacted by Lewis County Public Health, please follow their recommendations.

Lowville Academy's Return to School Plan was developed to address potential positive cases. The District continues to work closely with the Lewis County Department of Health.

As much as the District is attempting to be completely transparent in this matter, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other privacy laws restrict us from disclosing or confirming any personally identifiable information. The District is not permitted to release any additional information. Thank you for understanding.

We appreciate your continued support and understanding. We will continue to work together to ensure the safety of our students and staff as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rebecca Dunckel-King'.

Rebecca Dunckel-King
Superintendent of Schools