

LOWVILLE ACADEMY and CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Elementary School Principal

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January 6, 2021

Dear Lowville Academy Community,

Lowville Central School District has been contacted by Lewis County Public Health based on a report of a positive case of COVID-19 affecting an employee in our health office.

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.

Because one of our school nurses and one nursing aide has been quarantined as a result of this positive case, we are unable to have an open health office for the next two school days. Without an open, accessible health office, we are unable to hold in-person instruction on **Thursday, January 7 and Friday, January 8, 2021**. All classes in all buildings will have remote instruction on those days. At this time, we intend to open back up to in-person instruction on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Lowville Academy's Return to School Plan was developed to address potential positive cases. The District continues to follow the policies and procedures/protocols to ensure the health and safety of the students and employees, and will continue to work closely with the Lewis County Department of Health. Social distancing protocols and disinfecting measures continue to be in place. Additionally, extra cleaning has occurred in the health office.

As much as the District is attempting to be completely transparent in this matter, we are faced with the competing privacy rights of our students and staff. 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