

# LOWVILLE ACADEMY and CENTRAL SCHOOL

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**January 20, 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 a faculty member in the elementary school. This individual had no contact with faculty, staff, or students during the infectious period.

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 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.

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 Dunkel-King'.

Rebecca Dunkel-King  
Superintendent of Schools