**Retur Western Foothills**

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February 7, 2021

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and Guardians,

On Friday night I was notified by CDC that Mountain Valley High School has had 3-positive separate Covid cases since January 22. By definition, the CDC has classified MVHS as an “Outbreak”. This does not mean we have to close the School Building. MVHS is open! Anyone exposed to these cases has finished their quarantining and will be returning this week. Rumford Elementary School will continue to be fully remote through February Vacation, due to the number of confirmed Covid cases, exposures and staff members quarantining. All other schools are open for in-person learning.

On a positive note, MVMS finally was able to have 5th graders attend 4 days per week and many met classmates for the first time!! This week 6th graders will return to 4 days per week. Remember, we are able to consider this as these two class sizes are smaller in number.

Additionally, last week we were able to begin team practices following DOE health and safety guidelines. We will cautiously begin competitions this week. There will be no spectators allowed in our facilities.

Please remember we are taking every precaution in our schools to follow the guidelines and it is not a matter of Covid spreading in our schools. It is a matter of having enough staffing to maintain in-person learning as people are required to quarantine or they test positive from outside exposure. We do know how everyone wants to get back to more in-person learning and are continuously exploring ways to move towards this goal. Space in our schools to follow the distance requirements in the guidelines is our biggest barrier.

As always please consult with your school nurse if you have questions about exposure, quarantining or travel beyond ME, NH, VT.

Please stay safe!

Thank you!

Deb Alden