

LOWVILLE ACADEMY and CENTRAL SCHOOL

7668 NORTH STATE STREET
LOWVILLE, NEW YORK 13367-1328

Fax: 315-376-1933 Net: www.lowvilleacademy.org

REBECCA DUNCKEL-KING
Superintendent of Schools
Telephone: 315-376-9000

SCOTT D. EXFORD
Middle School Principal
Telephone: 315-376-9010

BRIAN E. FINN
High School Principal
Telephone: 315-376-9015

PHILOMENA B. GOSS
Elementary School Principal
Telephone: 315-376-9005



April 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As many of you are aware, late Friday night, April 9, 2021, the New York State Department of Health updated the school reopening guidance, endorsing the CDC guidance regarding a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing with a face mask for classroom instruction when six feet is not possible under certain circumstances. With this recommendation comes a myriad of other updates to the original guidance from August of 2020 with expected changes over the coming weeks.

The District will reconvene our original *Reopening Task Force* to review the NYSDOH guidance document. to see what changes we can make that will have the most beneficial impact on student learning. Any changes we can make need to be carefully planned to ensure the health and safety of all. In order to move forward effectively, we also need feedback from our stakeholder groups prior to making any changes. If you are interested in hearing our process and asking questions, please tune into our next **LACS Community Forum**. This session is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, at 4:00 pm in the auditorium and will be streamed live on our YouTube channel.

As a District, and with the support of our community, Lowville Academy and Central School has been able to have in-person instruction for students in grades K-4 every day and two days a week for grades 5-12. This accomplishment is not one shared by many schools throughout the state. We have been able to do this all while keeping students and staff safe in our schools. We have been following distancing and masking protocols as well as practicing good hand hygiene and keeping our facilities clean and disinfected.

As we all return from Spring Break, it's important to refresh our memories of important protocol that will remain in place for school. Continue to fill out the district's screening form located on the school website or on our app. Encourage your children to practice good hand hygiene and to wear a face mask properly. If you travelled over Spring Break, please keep a mindful eye on any symptoms you or members of your family may be experiencing. If you are experiencing any symptoms at all, please keep everyone home. Lewis County has a "high risk of transmission" as designated by the CDC (i.e. Red Zone). With this designation comes restrictions even with the new NYSDOH guidance.

Finally, the District is dedicated to open communication through this process. You can expect phone calls, letters, and surveys in the coming weeks. Your perspective is important to us!

I look forward to working with you to find safe and reliable solutions for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rebecca Dunckel-King'.

Rebecca Dunckel-King
Superintendent of Schools