

Dear Slate Valley Families,

On Friday, November 5th we learned about 2 individuals in our learning community with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at Orwell Village School and Castleton Village School. We recommend that you take action to help limit the spread of COVID-19, even if your child is not experiencing symptoms.

People who may have been exposed will be notified:

Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and was in [close contact](#) with the person who tested positive may have been exposed to the virus and will be asked to quarantine, which means staying home and away from other people for up to 14 days. Read more about [what it means to quarantine](#).

Anyone who is fully vaccinated or has recovered from COVID-19 within the past 3 months and was in close contact with the person who tested positive does not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

If you are identified as someone who may have been exposed, the school nurse or designee or someone from the Health Department will notify you and will provide information and guidance on quarantine and other recommendations.

Supporting our learning community

In order to maintain everyone's privacy, we cannot disclose who in our community has tested positive. Remember that we are all at risk of getting this virus. These "COVID-19 cases" are our friends and family, and we need to be understanding and supportive. People with COVID-19 often experience uncomfortable symptoms and emotional stress. Instead of participating in speculation or gossip, offer to help community members who are affected by quarantine. With creative action from all of us, we will get through this period of anxiety and disruption. We thank you for your investment in the health and wellbeing of our school community.

We are working with the Health Department to keep our community safe.

- We are working closely with the Health Department and following their recommendations to keep our community safe.
- We cleaned and disinfected all of our schools per the Health Department guidance.
- Sick employees and children will not return to work/school until they are healthy.

Learn more about [getting tested in Vermont](#).

The most important things you can do:

- Keep your child home if they have any symptoms of Covid-19-stuffy nose, headache, sore throat, fatigue, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, loss of taste or smell, fever, or shortness of breath.
- Make sure your child is wearing [a mask](#) when recommended or required.

- Make sure your child is [washing their hands](#) often especially after being at public places.
- Call your primary care provider if you or your child has [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Make sure that your children get vaccinated when they are eligible. [Find a location near you.](#)

We will continue to communicate changes and updates with you. With your participation, we believe we can create a safe and fun experience for your children. We all need to do our part.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 265-4905.

Many thanks,
Brooke Olsen-Farrell,
Superintendent