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March 15, 2022

Dear Maple Run Community,

Optional masking has continued to be a success, even with a few spikes in positive cases. As the Maple Run community advances, COVID guidelines in schools will minimize. The State of Vermont has updated its COVID-19 recommendations for prevention and mitigation for Vermont schools. This update will be a transition from school-specific recommendations to general health guidance for all Vermonters, issued by the Health Department.

Effective immediately, there will be no school-specific COVID-19 prevention and mitigation. We encourage students, staff, and families to follow the Vermont Department of Health's recommendations for all Vermonters. School COVID-19 testing programs will eventually be phased out in favor of students and staff accessing testing programs provided to all Vermonters. Each school will continue to update the possible COVID exposure letters each day, located on your student's school website, until further notice.

While we would like each school to return to the normal operations we had before the pandemic, we may not be able to return to some of our operating procedures or services we once had. For example, previously SATEC held early drop-off each morning but with our current staffing shortages we do not have the personnel to provide the service. Also, through the pandemic we have learned new operating procedures that provide more balance and calm for our students. At the beginning of the pandemic, schools kept students in a defined group and minimized physical space changes throughout the day. Our upper elementary and middle school students told us by having a defined space to call their own, and by decreasing the number of transitions in their day, they were less anxious. I ask everyone for patience with the schools' administration and staff as we finish up this school year. My hope is that as we open next year we are able to return to an operation similar to what we had before the pandemic.

I would like to thank all MRUSD school nurses for all their hard work and perseverance through this pandemic. Our objective is to return school nurses' duties to what they were before COVID, such as managing general health concerns and screening. Please remember to stay home when sick. Everyone's due diligence is greatly appreciated in keeping the Maple Run community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Kimball".

Bill Kimball
Superintendent of Schools