

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

16 March 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

I'm pleased to share that the shift to mask optional is going smoothly in all of the schools. Thank you to the families who had the conversations with their children about the importance of supporting each individual's decision to wear a mask or not wear a mask based on their unique circumstances. I'm so proud of the respect that Grand Isle County has treated each other with throughout the last two years.

On Monday, March 14, 2022 per the Vermont Agency of Education all GISU schools switched to the general community Covid-19 Guidelines as published by the Vermont Department of Health. Those guidelines were also updated Monday. The biggest changes that impact how schools will address Covid-19 have to do with:

Close Contacts:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/symptoms-sickness/what-do-if-you-are-close-contact>

And

What to do if you test positive:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/symptoms-sickness/what-do-if-you-test-positive-covid-19>

For now, schools will continue to have antigen tests available to families for possible exposure at school. My understanding is the Vermont Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health are currently evaluating how long to continue this process; and I will let you know when they share updated information. Also related to free Covid-19 tests - every home in the U.S is eligible to order two sets of four free at-home tests through www.covidtests.gov.

ESSER Fund Community Input Session

The [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\)](#) Fund is a federal formula grant managed by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE). These Non-recurring, emergency aid subgrants are being allocated by the AOE to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) by formula based on Title I, Part A allocations. Funds are broken down into three parts: ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III. These grants are considered one-time funds. We will use the March 23, 2022 Community Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to share more information about the Federal ESSER grants the Grand Isle Supervisory Union is scheduled to receive and to ask for input on the planned investments. We hope you will consider joining us to share your thoughts.

Community Meeting on March 16, 2022

The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below. I'm looking forward to talking about the masking optional and mitigation strategy changes. As always, questions are welcome!

Wednesday, **March 16, 2022**, 6:00 p.m

Join with Google Meet meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

Join by phone (US) +1 573-349-3062 PIN: 810 989 343#

Thank you for helping to ensure that all members of the GISU learning community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Grand Isle Supervisory Union, Superintendent