Monday, November 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our district has a total of six (6) positive COVID-19 cases within our school community. One (1) positive case at Golden Brook School, one (1) positive case at Windham Center School, three (3) positive cases at Windham Middle School, and one (1) positive case at Windham High School. We also currently have a total of 119 students and staff including administrators quarantined between Golden Brook, Center School, Middle School, and High School.

While our plan continues to remain focused on the hybrid learning model, we have encountered several challenges at Windham High School and Windham Middle School. Over the weekend, we were notified that an administrator tested positive for COVID-19 which has led to the quarantine of 17 additional administrators, teachers, students, and support staff which compromised the ability to provide safe and adequate supervision of students and school affairs. As a result, the administration has transitioned to remote learning for Windham High School for today, November 23, and tomorrow, November 24. We apologize for the late notice on Sunday night as we were only made aware of the active case in the late evening. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in the transition to remote learning on short notice.

The middle school struggles to provide consistent learning opportunities due to the rise in COVID-19, causing a shortage of staff and preventing students from receiving the benefit of their full classroom content and experience. The administration has worked tirelessly with existing staff to cover classes where needed but this has become a demanding and time-consuming task. We’ve had to pull resources from everywhere to provide coverage however it remains an on-going concern. Based on this we’ve continued to be creative and think differently about how we can maintain a normal educational environment for our students. We will continue to monitor the middle school situation and keep you informed should any change to the model be needed.

The school district has reached out to NH DHHS for direction relative to contact tracing and confirmation of existing cases. The investigation will continue through the holiday to ensure that anyone exposed is identified. Further information will be provided for the school community as to the status of the high school model after the holiday.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt the continuum of our educational process on a more consistent, accelerated level. It also appears that over the holiday season the resurgence will continue to interrupt and require us to be prepared for adjustments on a more regular basis. It has now become a full-time job for some of our administrators which frequently disrupts our attentiveness to the educational environment and the quality of learning. We especially want to thank all of our educators and support staff for their resilience and perseverance through this difficult time. We are indebted to their hard work and dedication to the children of Windham.

Thank you,

Richard Langlois