Friday, December 11, 2020

Dear Staff and School Community,

Our district now has a total of twenty-six (26) positive COVID-19 cases, eleven (11) positive cases at Golden Brook School, three (3) positive cases at Windham Center School, ten (10) positive cases at Windham Middle School, and two (2) positive cases at Windham High School. NH DHHS is now classifying Golden Brook School as an outbreak due to the number of cases and (Epi) Link, which is defined as a characteristic that links two cases, such as close contact between two people or a common exposure. We also currently have a total of 374 students and staff including administrators quarantined between Golden Brook, Center School, Middle School, and High School. These numbers continue to evolve and change based on contact tracing.

As a reminder, the quarantine period is 10 days as per NH DHHS guidelines. Those that test positive can impact others if they’ve gathered with other individuals less than six feet apart and a cumulative time period of 10 minutes or if you break your isolation or quarantine. As of today, the NH DHHS has identified Windham as having one of the highest community rates of new cases for positivity in the State of New Hampshire.

Due to the recent outbreak in our district, Golden Brook School, Windham Center School, and Windham Middle School will remain in remote learning and Windham High School will move to remote learning as of Monday, December 14, 2020. Additionally, the Windham School Board supports the decision to remain in remote learning following the winter break. Our anticipated return to the in-person/hybrid model will be Monday, January 11, 2021. We’re hoping that this break from in-person learning will decrease exposure. Hopefully, this will prevent future exposure and will allow families currently in quarantine to finish their time, so that they may enjoy the upcoming Winter break in a safe and healthy environment. During this timeframe, all students will continue their learning in a full remote setting. Additional details regarding material pick-up and day-to-day details will be provided by your building-level leaders. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to your building-level leaders for guidance.
This was not an easy decision to make but based on the percentage of students who have been attending school in-person vs. remotely, our attendance and participation have improved dramatically while in remote learning. Noticeably, parents have begun to transition their children from the in-person/hybrid learning model to remote learning and indicated that they will not return until after the Winter break in January. This trend in attendance supports our decision to go to the remote learning model as the safest option for our students, staff, and school community.

Please continue to contact the school nurse or the dedicated Windham School District COVID-19 phone number or email address to report illnesses, concerns on recent travel, or upcoming travel that are associated directly with COVID-19 even during this period of remote learning. As always all reports will remain confidential.

1. Email: covid19@windhamsd.org
2. Phone: (603) 845-1566
3. Staff should continue to reach out to the HR director with any concerns.

hrdirector@windhamsd.org

Thank you again for all your support,

Richard Langlois, Superintendent