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*Weekly News Letter from The Principal's Corner  
October 8, 2020*

*See Covid 19 Update Attached to this Newsletter*

**Track My Progress**

Students in grades 1-8 have been taking the assessment called Track My Progress this week. We will be testing again in January and April. Kindergarteners will be taking the assessments in January and April, but not this fall. This is a progress monitoring tool that produces excellent data which we can then use to support students in their learning. It's done on the computer and assesses skills in reading and math. We always share the scores with parents, along with a cover letter of explanation, which you can look for in a week or two. We always announce that the results are coming home in a sealed envelope, which are put with each student's Friday Packets.

**Partnership – Afternoon Help Available to Students**

Teachers, Professional Staff, and Support Staff want to be available to students remotely in the afternoon. Teachers initiate this service based on student need, but in a true partnership, it works both ways. Parents and students can ask for extra help at any time. If your afternoons are busy and you prefer that your child NOT receive afternoon remediation, please don't be afraid to say no. We are just letting you know that extra help is available and we stand ready and poised to serve. Thank you for working with us....I am proud of our partnership!

**School Board Meets Remotely on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

Join with Google Meet <https://meet.google.com/yfx-stwk-cgs> -or Join by Phone (US) + 1 218-296-8985 PIN: 906 843-492#

**October 9<sup>th</sup> – Remote Learning Day**

Our teachers will be in inservice training tomorrow, October 9<sup>th</sup>, but they are all planning to give asynchronous, (independent), work to K-8 students. The students will have work to do, but it will vary by teacher and grade.

**Long Weekend**

Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> is Indigenous Peoples Day and school will not be in session.

**Flu Clinic for Students and Their Families**

On October 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am we will be doing a drive up flu shot clinic at Weathersfield School in collaboration with Mount Ascutney Hospital. Anyone can participate. We have sent the form and information about why this is important to you all on two occasions. Contact Emily Stevens in the health office with questions.

**Flu Clinic for Faculty and Staff**

Our school nurse, Emily Stevens, has arranged for the faculty and staff to get a flu shot at school on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The flu shot clinic for staff will be here at Weathersfield School in the AP room at 1:00 pm. Please pick up paperwork in the health office to fill out prior to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Let Mrs. Stevens know if you have questions.

## **News from Vermont Legal Aid**

During these difficult times, new financial help programs are available to many Vermonters. The state does not want people to be struggling to pay bills, so please apply, even if you don't usually get public help. Vermont Legal Aid has more information on these programs on our website: <http://vtlawhelp.org>.

Vermont Legal Aid is also able to help individual tenants and homeowners. Call us at **1-800-889-2047** or go to <http://vtlawhelp.org>. For the fastest response, leave a message explaining what you need in a sentence or two.

### **1. Help with past-due rent**

For help with past-due rent, Vermonters should apply for the [Rental Housing Stabilization Program](#) through the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA). Tenants and landlords apply for this program at the same time. There are no income limits. VSHA pays landlords directly to bring the tenant's rent account current. This program will last until December 30 or until the money runs out. You can get help now, and apply again if you still need help later. [Learn more about this help for paying past-due rent on our website](#) or reach us for help.

### **2. Moving to a new home**

Some people need to move because of life safety problems with their rental unit, the rent is too expensive, they have trouble with the landlord or other tenants, or the unit is too big or too small. If you need to move and have found a new landlord, apply together for the [Money to Move program at vsha.org](#). The program can cover the money needed to move in, such as first and last month's rent and security deposit. It also may cover rent payments through the end of this year. [Learn more about this help on our website or reach us for help](#).

**3. Emergency housing for people who do not have a home** The Department of Children and Family's (DCF) [Economic Services Division](#) is extending housing supports for homeless households. For more information or to apply, contact the Benefits Service Center at 1-800-479-6151. [Follow this link for the program rules](#). If you stay in a shelter or motel, you need to participate in "coordinated entry." Through coordinated entry, you will be assigned a housing case manager who will help you access subsidies and programs to help you get permanent housing. To learn more about coordinated entry, call 2-1-1. If you worked with your case manager to apply for a subsidy or other program and your application was denied, call Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047.

### **4. Past-Due Utility Bills**

The Department of Public Services (DPS) can help pay past-due utility bills. The bills can be for electric, natural gas, landline telephone service or regulated private water bills (not municipal water). Homes and small businesses are eligible. There are no income limits, and you don't have to have a disconnect notice. However, your difficulty paying the bill must be linked to COVID. The funding only covers arrearages after March 1, 2020. If you need help to fill out an application online, contact your local [community action agency](#). Learn more on the [Department of Public Service website](#).

### **5. Mortgage Assistance Program (and maybe Property Tax Assistance)**

This program can pay up to six past-due mortgage payments on your home. It is available to all Vermonters who:

- are at least 1 month past due on mortgage payments
- have a COVID-related hardship, and
- meet the income requirements.
- Even people who have mortgages in forbearance are eligible. If you have a mortgage and are behind on property taxes that you pay directly to the town, you may also be eligible for assistance. Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) is taking applications for the [Vermont COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program](#). (You do not need to have a VHFA mortgage to be eligible.) [Learn more about the mortgage assistance on our website or reach us for help](#).

*Barb Prine, Staff Attorney - Disability Law Project, Vermont Legal Aid  
802-863-5620 X254 She/her pronouns*

We live in a gorgeous state, enjoy every moment,

*JeanMarie*

JeanMarie K. Oakman, WS Principal

## What happens if my child has symptoms at home or gets sick in school?

- If your child has any of the symptoms listed below, keep them home from school and call the school to report their absence.
- If your child has any of the symptoms listed below while at school, they will be moved to an area set up specifically for students not feeling well and you will be called to come pick up your child as soon as possible.
- We encourage you sign a consent form that allows information to be shared between your child's school nurse (when available) and health care provider when your child is sick.
- This guidance was developed by public health and health care professionals using proven public health principles at a time when community transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness in Vermont is extremely low. It may be revised in response to changing local and state circumstances.
- While it is strongly encouraged that decisions about when a student may return to school are made with the school nurse, the student's health care provider, and the family, such decisions must ultimately ensure the health and safety of your child's school and community.

## When does my child need a COVID-19 test?

Cough (new)	<p>If your child has <b>ANY ONE</b> of these symptoms, they likely <b>need a COVID-19 test.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your child's healthcare provider for medical advice and possible office visit or referral to be tested.</li> <li>• Communicate the plan with your child's school nurse or designated personnel.</li> </ul>
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
Loss of taste (new)	
Loss of smell (new)	
Fever alone which persists > 24 hours	
Fever (temperature higher than 100.4°)	<p>If your child has <b>TWO OR MORE</b> of these symptoms, they <b>MAY need a COVID-19 test.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your child's healthcare provider for medical advice and possible office visit to determine what to do next.</li> <li>• Communicate the plan with your child's school nurse.</li> </ul> <p>If your child has <b>ONLY ONE</b> of these symptoms,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your child at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine and they are feeling better (symptoms are improving).</li> </ul>
Chills	
Muscle or body aches	
Headache	
Sore throat	
Fatigue	
Congestion or runny nose (new)	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	

## When can my child go back to school?

You **do not** need a signed doctor's note for your child to re-enter school.

- If your child **had a COVID-19 test**:
  - They must quarantine until they have received results of the test.
  - If the test results are **NEGATIVE**, they can go back to school after:
    - Your child has had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
    - Your child feels better, **and** their symptoms are improving.
  - If the test results are **POSITIVE**, they can go back to school after:
    - It has been 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
    - Other symptoms have improved, **AND**
    - At least 10 days have passed since any symptoms appeared.
- If your child **did not** have a COVID-19 test because they only had one of the symptoms in the yellow box above, they can go back to school when:
  - Your child has had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
  - Your child feels better, **and** the symptoms are improving.
- If your child had any symptom in the red box or two or more symptoms in the yellow box but was not seen by their health care professional and did not have a COVID-19 test, they can go back to school after:
  - It has been 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
  - Other symptoms have improved, **AND**
  - At least 10 days have passed since any symptoms appeared.

This document was adapted with permission from the [Rhode Island Department of Health](#)

[COVID-19 in Pediatric Patients \(Pre-K – Grade 12\) Triage, Evaluation, Testing and Return to School](#)

[A Strong and Healthy Start: Safety and Health Guidance for Vermont Schools](#)