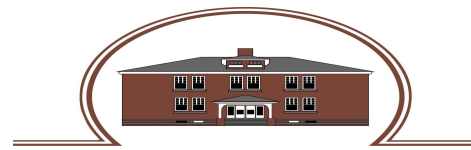


Barre Unified Union School District

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Barre City Elementary & Middle School • Barre Town Middle & Elementary School • Spaulding High School • Central Vermont Career Center
Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.

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Josh Allen – Communications Specialist

Lisa Perreault, SFO - Business Manager
Carol Marold – Director of Human Resources
Emmanuel Ajanma, MAT – Director of Technology
Jamie Evans – Director of Facilities

Annette Rhoades, M.Ed., CAGS – Asst. Director of Special Services
Jon Strazza, MS.Ed. – Asst. Director of Special Services
Rebecca Webb, M.Ed. – Act 166 Regional Coordinator

October 23, 2020

Dear Barre Educators,

I write to you at a difficult time for educators in Barre and around Central Vermont. Schools in our district and schools in neighboring towns are supporting each other while members of our school communities have tested positive for COVID-19. Some of these cases have involved students or family members and other cases have involved school employees. Some schools have moved to remote learning for a time like Barre City Elementary & Middle School last week and Union Elementary School in Montpelier this week. I want to share some information with you that explains how these decisions are made.

When we hear about an individual in our school community who may have been exposed to the virus or has tested positive for COVID-19, we make sure they have contacted their health care provider and the Vermont Department of Health if necessary. Then I meet with the principals and school nurse in that building along with Jen Lyon, our COVID-19 Coordinator. We make sure everything is ready for the Vermont Department of Health in case they need to begin contact tracing. The Department of Health has the expertise to know if contact tracing is necessary. This will depend on when the individual was last in one of our schools, when they began to show symptoms and when they tested positive. The Department of Health may decide that the timeline shows no risk to the school and contact tracing is not necessary. When it is necessary, only the Department of Health actually conducts the contact tracing. Even when contact tracing at school is not necessary, any individual testing positive for COVID-19 will be directed by the Department of Health to quarantine.

I know it is stressful to hear about cases of COVID-19 in our community. Your school principal and I are ready to take action when the Vermont Department of Health tells us that one of our schools has been negatively affected by COVID-19. This might look like moving certain grades or certain schools to remote learning for a period of time. We will also have our maintenance departments perform extra cleaning in affected areas in addition to their regular cleaning routines. It is also very important that we protect the privacy of any individual affected by this, just as we would with any other medical information. This means that we can not share identifying information about an individual.

Please know that I am here along with your principals and colleagues to help during these trying times. Please reach out for support when needed. Lastly, I will leave you with two helpful resources about contact tracing and responding to COVID-19. Please take a moment to look at these when you have a chance.

With warmest regards,

David Wells
Superintendent

[BUUSD What to do if you hear of a positive](#)
[Department of Health Video: How Contact Tracing Slows the Spread of COVID-19](#)