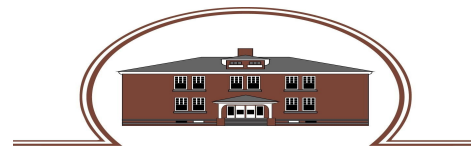


# Barre Unified Union School District

120 Ayers Street, Barre, VT 05641 • [www.buUSD.org](http://www.buUSD.org) • Phone: 802-476-5011 • Fax: 802-476-4944 or 802-477-1132



**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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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

Dear Barre Teaching Community,

First, let me thank you for all that you are doing to support our students and your colleagues during this worrisome time. I want you to know that your administrators, school nurses and I are working together on the next steps for our district as we respond to the positive COVID-19 cases in our school community. We are reaching out to the Vermont Department of Health and will let you know as soon as we receive recommendations from them. In the meantime, we are doing the right thing by teaching remotely.

I have some very important information to share with you about COVID-19 testing in light of our situation. First, I want to update you on the State of Vermont COVID-19 testing program for school employees that was announced this week. Second, I want to pass along some very important advice from our own Health Office about getting tested.

The State of Vermont has announced an initiative to conduct surveillance testing of teachers and staff in Vermont's school districts. I view this as a very helpful initiative because it will give you easy access to testing in your own school building. Taking a test is voluntary and your results will be reported directly to you from the laboratory in a confidential manner. As with all testing, the Vermont Department of Health will contact you if your test is unfortunately positive. Here are some other important points to know about this program:

- I expect that testing will take place between Tuesday and Thursday of next week.
- You will need to register for a test in advance. BUUSD will send you registration information as soon as it is available.
- Only school employees are eligible for this program. It is not open to the public or our family members.
- There is no cost to employees for this program.
- This testing is asymptomatic, surveillance testing and staff do not need to quarantine while they wait for results. Of course, any employee who is symptomatic would already have stayed home from school per our protocols.
- These tests are self-administered, meaning that staff will be collecting their own sample by swabbing their nostrils.
- They are PCR tests which give much more reliable results than “rapid tests.”

Of course, getting tested for COVID-19 is a personal decision. Whether you participate in the State of Vermont testing program or seek out testing on your own, I want to pass along some important things to remember from our school Health Office:

- Close contact means within 6 feet of someone that is COVID-19 positive, for 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period of time. This applies even if you were wearing a facial covering.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive it is important that you NOT seek testing too early. Please contact the Vermont Department of Health, (802)863-7200, before going to get tested. If you are asymptomatic, the department of health will advise waiting 7 days from your last contact with the

positive individual, depending on their test date, or onset of symptoms, prior to being tested for COVID-19. Testing too early can result in a false negative and may require a second test.

- If you are getting tested please reach out to your administrator and school nurse. While this is not required it is greatly appreciated and is helpful in our COVID-19 monitoring efforts. Please also be in contact with Carol Marold or Leslie Babic in human resources as they can provide guidance regarding leave and compensation specifics.
- Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school's Health Office with any questions or concerns you may have.
- More information is available on the VT Health Department website:  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19> or by calling them at (802)863-7200.

Again, I appreciate all that you are doing during this difficult time. Please be well and take care of yourself and your family.

Sincerely,

David Wells  
Superintendent  
BUUSD