



September 3, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families,

We have successfully finished our first week of school, and I can't tell you strongly enough just how happy and relieved we are to have our students back in school. I've also been able to talk to a number of students in each school this past week who are excited to be present with their friends and eager to make new ones. The energy and thirst for learning has been evident in every classroom I was fortunate enough to visit.

As we enjoy the long holiday weekend, there are a few things I want to share:

We will begin **voluntary** surveillance testing for COVID-19 on Monday, September 13, 2021, for students and staff who wish to participate. **Students will need parent/guardian consent in order to be tested.** Flo Kelley, our COVID-19 Coordinator, will send out information to you about this, including how to sign up. Both students and staff have an opportunity to be tested on a consistent basis, which is an addition to our current safety measures as we strive to keep all students and staff in school full time.

It is the building principals' responsibility, along with a team that includes the Vermont Department of Health (VTDOH), supervisory union health leadership, and our school nurses, to determine if any individual or a classroom of students are close contacts with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The VTDOH personnel provide us with guidance on who should quarantine, who should get tested, and when someone may return to work or school.

Administration is providing support in each school so that **if any student or class** is required to miss school for any reason, **no student will miss instructional and learning opportunities.** This support could include teaching students how to independently access devices, learning platforms, reading/writing journals, and more. All teachers have been asked to make sure each student is prepared for any scenario, including learning outside of the school building, even if it never occurs, so that students know how to access learning every day. There are some active COVID-19 cases in our communities and we are fortunate to have educators who understand that preparation for any situation is far better than a disruption in any continuity of learning.

Our goal for the entire school year is to ensure that all safety protocols are followed so that we can have in-person instruction five days per week. We know in-person learning is best for social-emotional wellbeing and academic growth. We thank you for partnering with us to ensure that goal.

We care deeply about all people in our community. We are thoughtful about every decision we make, and we are committed to working together for the benefit of all of our students. Thank you, again, for working with us to make sure we have a successful year.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Lamoille North Supervisory Union