



December 3, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday break and were able to enjoy some time with family and friends. As predicted, we do have more snow on the ground, but seemingly much less than usual for this time of year. We made it through the month of November without a snow day! Please know that when the weather conditions do warrant considering a school closure or delayed start, I will do my very best to make a decision that keeps our students' and staff's safety at the center, and I will communicate the decision as quickly as possible. To that end, please ensure that all of your contact information is up-to-date so that you receive messages in a timely manner.

Earlier this week, school leaders met with our state officials from both the Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE) and the Vermont Department of Health (VTDOH) to discuss the recent rise of COVID-19 cases in Vermont. We are still seeing cases in the unvaccinated 5-11 student population, but are also seeing more breakthrough cases in our vaccinated population. Some health experts believe that breakthrough cases could be a result of having less strong antibodies over time that occur post vaccination and this is the reason the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the VTDOH are recommending booster shots for everyone eligible for one. Per our previous communications, we update our COVID-19 dashboard every Friday and you can review our supervisory union-wide case count, by school, [HERE](#).

The other topic of conversation was the new variant, Omicron, which has been designated a variant of concern. Health officials do not have much in the way of information about the significance of this variant, but are looking to know more within two weeks. The CDC is looking to understand to what extent Omicron is more contagious, to what extent it can lead to more serious illness, and to what extent our current vaccines are effective against this variant. I will communicate more information as I receive it!

On another note, there has been an adjustment to our schedule for all LNSU schools. There will be an **early release day on Thursday, December 23, 2021**, to honor the hard work of our students and staff, and to give people more time to spend with family and friends. We also want to take this time to thank our LNSU Board Chair, Mark Nielsen, and CES Board Chair, Mark Stebbins, for their support of our students and staff in this endeavor.

And finally, I would like to warmly thank our Lamoille North families and staff again for the kindness and support you have shown throughout the last few months.

My best to you,

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