Dec. 23, 2020

Green Street School News

164 Green Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-254-3737

greenstreetschoolvt.com

We support each student's intellectual, physical, social and emotional development through meaningful, challenging experiences. We foster healthy relationships which create a safe and caring environment that will sustain lifelong learners, creative thinkers and responsible citizens.

Non-essential travel to and from Vermont requires quarantine.

Please refrain from cross-state travel, unless you are traveling for an essential need such as employment, child care, custodial parent visits, medical care, or purchase of essential items. Also--continue your diligence in wearing masks, staying socially distant, and hand washing.
cross state travel map and guidance

You can still reach Nurse Julia at jduke@wsesdvt.org.

You can also reach staff in the school office during school hours. 802-254-3737.

Straight from the Gecko ~ December 23, 2020

Starting the Second Semester, Explained

JANUARY 2021

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	1 New Year's Day -no school-	2
3	4 EVERYONE FULLY REMOTE	5 EVERYONE FULLY REMOTE	6 EVERYONE FULLY REMOTE	7 EVERYONE FULLY REMOTE	8 EVERYONE FULLY REMOTE	9
10	11 M/T Hybrid	12 M/T Hybrid	13 Remote Day for all	14 Th/F Hybrid	15 Th/F Hybrid	16
17	18 MLK Jr.Day -no school-	19 M/T Hybrid	20 Remote Day for all	21 Th/F Hybrid	22 Th/F Hybrid	23
24	25 In-Serv. -no school-	26 In-Serv. -no school-	27 Remote Day for all	28 **Semester 2 4-Day Hybrid or Fully Remote Begins**	29 Semester 2 4-Day Hybrid or Fully Remote	30
31	FEB 1 4-Day Hybrid or Fully Remote	2 4-Day Hybrid or Fully Remote	3 Remote Day for all	4 4-Day Hybrid or Fully Remote	5 4-Day Hybrid or Fully Remote	6

All families' requests have been honored, for either the Fully Remote learning option or the 4-day in-person learning option (which includes Wednesdays as fully remote school days). We anticipate mailing out 2nd semester homeroom teacher assignments to all families during the week of January 11th. In some cases, students will be assigned to a different homeroom teacher than they've had.

January 4 - 8
When winter break ends, and we return to school on January 4th, all students will be learning in Fully Remote mode for a full week.

January 11th
We return to school in the same manner that we left-- 2-day hybrid or Fully Remote. We will finish up the **first** semester in this manner, on January 27th.

January 27th
This is a fully remote day, because it is a Wednesday. It marks the end of Semester 1.

January 28th
This is the day we transition fully to Semester 2. Our 4-day in-person learning begins, for families who selected this option. For some students this means a transition to a different homeroom teacher.

ZOOM SCHOOL SING !

Sure, we're fully remote, but we're a tight-knit community!

Let's be sure to get together at our Zoom School Sing on Wednesday, December 23rd.

We'll ring in the Winter Snow with Jingle Bells, Rudolph, Winter Wonderland, and Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Dress up in a wintry sweater or other festive clothes and accessories.

Here's the Link: https://zoom.us/j/95976329713?pwd=N1Z1LzUzdlNsb3FFUWtTUXplS3hqZz09 Meeting ID: 959 7632 9713 Passcode: Yjz4gB

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL / PTO

This group meets monthly on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00pm, and YOU are invited to join any or all meetings!

Can't make it? The minutes of the meeting are available to view on our website. Here's the link!

GSS Leadership Council/PTO

Next Meeting:
Monday, January 4, 2021 6 – 7pm

We hope you will join us:
https://zoom.us/j/94172633752?pwd=NWV6bU1OQnRQall6SDRBckR3cGU4dz09

Meeting ID: 941 7263 3752 Passcode: Y8aefu

A student recently shared this picture, to express gratitude for his fully remote teacher.

The Vermont Health Department's website offers a lot of clearly outlined community resources, from housing and food resources to suggestions for how to help our neighbors.

In particular, there are helpful links to Hunger-Free Vermont, Vermont Foodbank and WIC.

https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/your-community

Invitation from Miss Shannon: I wanted to share information about a couple of trainings currently being offered by the Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso. These trainings are completely asynchronous, self-paced, and FREE (though you can get CEUs at a very low cost). I did the Anti-Racism training during the summer, and it consisted largely of videos, with a few reflection questions in each of the 3 modules. I recommend checking these out if you are interested in building your knowledge base around Anti-Racism or LGBTQ+ Allyship:

https://www.driep.org/anti-racism-training https://www.driep.org/lgbtq-training

If you plan on doing either training, please let me know. If there are multiple people from GSS participating, it would be a good opportunity for folks to connect and reflect after completing the training.

There are several documents worthy of review, on the following pages!

WINTER FARMERS'MARKET

Quadruple your EBT every market day!

Spend $10,
get $20 CropCash
AND $10 Food Boost
FOLKS! That's $40 to spend!

MARKET SHOPPERS'ALERT
We are now a CURBSIDE ONLY market.
Watch for market updates on our website.

FIND OUR ONLINE SHOP at:

https://openfoodnetwork.net/brattleboro-winter-farmers-market/shop

Shop for your local provisions in the safety of your home and pre-pay with debit or credit card. Then simply drive up on market day and we'll bring out your order.
SNAP customers can also pre-order and we'll process your EBT card at the time of pick up. Crop Cash and Food Boost coupons will be credited to your order to help stretch your food dollars!
Our shop is currently open for orders Tuesday at 8 AM through Thursday at 8 PM. Any changes will be posted on our website, sent via our email list, and posted on Facebook.
If you have any difficulties accessing the shop, get in touch! Call Sherry at 802-869-2141 or Jill at 802-257-9151. Or email us at farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org. Stay Safe!!

IN-PERSON SCHOOLING AND COVID-19 TRANSMISSION: A REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE

Governments around the world are grappling with a resurgence of SARS-COV-2 – the virus that causes COVID-19 – and working through whether schools can continue in-person instruction relatively safely. This evidence brief aims to summarize the available research to inform policymakers on this issue. It examines the literature to answer the following three questions: (1) Is there a connection between in-person schooling and increased COVID-19 transmission rates in the community? (2) Are students at a higher risk of being infected at school? (3) Are school staff at a higher risk of being infected at school?

The brief is based on a review of twenty publications: reviews of literature, national surveillance studies of re-opened schools, ecological studies, transmission modelling simulation studies and case tracing studies. The authors include government agencies, academic researchers and independent research organizations. Most sources are focused on high-income countries. The preliminary findings thus far[1] suggest that in-person schooling – especially when coupled with preventive and control measures – had lower secondary COVID-19 transmission rates compared to other settings and do not seem to have significantly contributed to the overall community transmission risks.

This document was developed with input from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of Experts on Educational Institutions and COVID-19 and TAG secretariat (UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO).

IN-PERSON SCHOOLING AND COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN THE COMMUNITY

While sporadic COVID-19 cases have been reported in school settings, relative to the level of community transmission schools have not been identified as superspreading settings except for the Jerusalem high school in Israel[i] in May (where mitigation measures were not followed). An early study in the United States showed an initial drop in infection rates following school closures but could not isolate the policy's effects from wide-ranging lockdown measures.[ii] A quasi-experimental design study in Germany found that there is no evidence of a decline in community infection rates when schools close and no evidence of spikes when they re-open.[iii]

A global study that tracked school closures and subsequent re-openings data in 191 countries showed no association between school status and COVID-19 infection rates in the community.[iv] Similarly, in a review of infection levels and school status in 32 European countries the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) found that "the evidence from contact tracing in schools, and observational data from a number of EU countries suggest that re-opening schools has not been associated with significant increases in community transmission."[v] A systematic review of 47 studies published on transmission from children to adults

1 This review is based on published evidence up to November 23rd, 2020. It will be updated in the first quarter of 2021.

UNESCO
unicef for every child

found that the risk of transmission from children to the community (especially the elderly) was relatively low.[vi] A recent modeling study ranked closing education settings as a highly effective intervention, however it did not distinguish between primary, secondary schools and university settings.[vii] Other simulation studies have shown that school closures would not significantly reduce the transmission rates compared to other policy levers.[viii] [ix]

IN-PERSON SCHOOLING AND RISK LEVELS FOR STUDENTS

Children under 18 represent about 8% of all reported cases. Surveillance evidence from Europe shows that the proportion of reported cases in children remains lower than in adults and is lowest among children below 10 years. This may be due to lower infection rates or due to milder or absent symptoms.[x] A government report based on a national surveillance system found that following limited school re-openings in the summer in England & Wales, the infection rates among students did not increase over the existing population rate.[xi] [xii] The national surveillance system in Scotland also found little to no evidence of transmission risks for students in school settings.[xiii] It is important to note that the studies of the summer term re-openings in England & Wales were based on very limited secondary school re-openings. Recent reporting from the British government shows a slight uptick in infection rates among children, especially in the 12-18-year-old population.[xiv]

The ECDC paper based on evidence from 32 European countries concluded that student-to-student transmission was uncommon and not the primary cause of infection in children.[xv] Additionally, multiple contact-tracing based studies of infected students in school settings in Australia[xvi], Finland[xvii], France[xviii], Ireland[xix], and Singapore[xx] (including some that screened asymptomatic children) found little to no evidence of secondary transmission by infected students in the school setting. One case of a school-based outbreak was reported at an Israeli secondary school with no mitigation measures in place.[xxi] Another contact-tracing study in India showed that children-to-children transmission may be higher, but it was not clear if the transmission occurred in school settings or elsewhere[xxii]. It is important to note that in most cases in-person schooling has resumed with several mitigation measures to minimize the risk of transmission. These measures included phased opening, enhanced hygiene measures (hand washing, use of hand sanitizer), regular screenings, limited interactions outside classroom pods, distancing measures, transparency, targeted communication strategies and PPE use (including masks, and face shields).

IN-PERSON SCHOOLING AND RISK LEVELS FOR STAFF

Little evidence exists that school staff are at higher risk of being infected when they are at school relative to the general adult population. Findings from the national surveillance systems in the UK[xxiii] and Scotland[xxiv] show that school staff are at lower risk of infection in school settings compared to the general adult population. Transmission cases show that the risk of adult to adult transmission is higher than child to child or child to adult transmission.[xxv] Finally, British government data suggests that school staff positivity rates have remained the same as comparable workers from other sectors over the autumn months. One contact-tracing study of infected children and staff in childcare and school settings in New South Wales found low infection rates relative to the general population as well as low secondary transmission rates (0.5% of cases). Another study, focusing on 57,000 caregivers at childcare facilities in the US, found that there was no increased risk of infection for the caregivers.[xxvi]

CONCLUSION

While evidence continues to emerge regarding the effects of in-person schooling on the risk of COVID-19 infections, a review of the current evidence shows that in-person schooling does not appear to be the main driver of infection spikes, children in school do not appear to be exposed to higher risks of infection compared to when not in school when mitigation measures are in place, and school staff also do not appear to be at a higher relative risk compared to the general population. It is important to note that in most cases schools have re-opened along with the implementation of various mitigation measures and some of the early research reviewed was collected in the context of relatively limited school re-openings.

ENDNOTES

i Stein-Zamir, et al., 2020 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7384285/)
ii Augur, et al., 2020 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32745200/)
iii Von Bismarck-Osten, et al., 2020 (https://www.cream-migration.org/publ_uploads/CDP_22_20.pdf)
iv Insights for Education, 2020 (https://blobby.wsimg.com/go/104fc727-3bad-4ff5-944f-c281d3ceda7f/20201001_Covid19%20and%20Schools%20Six%20Month%20Report.pdf)
v European center for disease control, 2020 (https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-schools-transmission-August%202020.pdf)
vi Ludvigsson, 2020 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32202343/)
vii Haug, et al., 2020 (https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-020-01009-0?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top)
viii Viner et al, 2020 (https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2352-4642%2820%2930095-X
ix Ferguson, et al., 2020 (https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk:8443/bitstream/10044/1/77482/14/2020-03-16-COVID19-Report-9.pdf)
x European center for disease control, 2020 (https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-schools-transmission-August%202020.pdf)
xi Ladhani, 2020 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/914700/sKIDs_Phase1Report_01sep2020.pdf)
xii Ismail, et al., 2020 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911267/School_Outbreaks_Analysis.pdf)
xiii Public Health Scotland (https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-evidence-on-children-schools-early-learning-and-childcare-settings-and-transmission-from-covid-19---summary-report/)
xiv Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies (SAGE), Government of the United Kingdom, 2020 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/935125/tfc-covid-19-children-transmission-s0860-041120.pdf)
xv European center for disease control, 2020 (https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-schools-transmission-August%202020.pdf)
xvi National Center for Immunization Research and Surveillance Australia, 2020 (https://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/NCIRS%20NSW%20Schools%20COVID_Summary_FINAL%20public_26%20April%202020.pdf)
xvii Dub, et al., 2020 (https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.20.20156018v1.full.pdf)
xviii Danis et al., 2020 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32277759/)
xix Heavey, et al., 2020 (https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.21.2000903)
xx Yung, et al., 2020 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7337629/)
xxi Stein-Zamir, et al., 2020 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7384285/)
xxii Laxminarayan, et al., 2020 (https://science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6517/691)
xxiii Ismail, et al., 2020 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911267/School_Outbreaks_Analysis.pdf)
xxiv Public Health Scotland (https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-evidence-on-children-schools-early-learning-and-childcare-settings-and-transmission-from-covid-19---summary-report/)
xxv European center for disease control, 2020 (https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-schools-transmission-August%202020.pdf)
xxvi Gilliam et al., (https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2020/10/16/peds.2020-031971)

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Updated Holiday Toolkit for Schools

December 2020

Messaging Toolkit for Schools: Celebrating the Holidays and Winter Break

The number of people with COVID-19 across the U.S. is growing, and experts expect these numbers to rise in the next few months. Governor Phil Scott put temporary measures into place to slow the spread of the virus in Vermont. This will protect hospitals from getting overwhelmed, help schools continue to offer in-person instruction, and keep as many people working as possible. We have revised this toolkit based on the Nov. 13 executive order, and we encourage you to share these messages with families before the winter break.

Looking into a Hopeful Future

It has been a long and difficult time for families this year, and the pandemic is going to continue to challenge us in 2021. While the COVID-19 vaccine should offer protection from the virus, it will take time to vaccinate enough people to make a significant impact. When enough people in a community are immune to a disease, they protect others who are not vaccinated because there are fewer chances for the disease to spread. For the latest information on vaccine in Vermont, visit healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccines.

What Families Need to Know

- The Health Department strongly advises against non-essential travel, even within Vermont. All travel to and from Vermont requires quarantine.
- Vermonters are not allowed to socially gather with people they don't live with. This includes gathering both inside and outside, and in public and private spaces.
- Visitors to Vermont can only socialize with the people they are traveling with. They cannot gather with Vermonters in their home or elsewhere.

Plan to Stay Safe

For a lot of families, holiday celebrations are built around traditions that bring people together. After an extended time being apart, we need connection more than ever. However, our individual choices can have a large impact the health of our community in this pandemic. Last March, when schools and the economy shut down, we did not have choices about where we could go. Now we have more options, but making these decisions will affect others. All Vermonters should continue to follow this basic guidance:

- When you go out, like to run errands, visit a trail or something else, a quick and easy way to measure the risk is to look for these three things: masks on faces, six-foot spaces, uncrowded places. If any of these things is missing, come back another time.
- If you're sick, stay home.
- Get tested if you have: any symptoms (even mild ones), been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, traveled, or attended a social gathering.
- Get your flu shot.

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Updated Holiday Toolkit for Schools

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Manage Your Family's Risk

Many families will follow the guidance, and it's great to share appreciation for their sacrifices at this time. However, some will choose to travel, and some will gather with others, so they need information about what to do next. It's best to share this without shame or judgment — what's important is protecting one another.

- Get tested as soon as you can. Find out where to get tested here.
- Quarantine. You now need to complete either a 14-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test result, as long as you do not experience symptoms.
    - Quarantine means staying home and away from others. Do not go to work or school, or out to do errands or recreation. This helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 before a person knows they are sick, or if they are infected with the virus and don't have symptoms.

Messages to Share

Have compassion for people during this challenging time. It is hard to balance our risk of getting sick and our human need for in-person connection, especially during the holidays. We are asking the entire school community to break from holiday traditions with loved ones they may not have seen in-person for months. It's been a long, lonely pandemic, and people are craving normalcy. Acknowledging the challenges and disappointments that families are facing shows the school cares for the community.

- When to Say Yes
    - ✓ Find ways to adapt holiday traditions. Organize a no-contact cookie swap in your neighborhood, make a family tree and send cards to people you don't see.
    - ✓ Take a holiday lights walking or driving tour around your town. Take pictures and share with the hashtag #VermontLightsTheWay.
    - ✓ Express gratitude and give back to your community. Find a service project for the family to do together. Check with a local food bank, or the United Way for ideas.
    - ✓ Practice Random Acts of Kindness – shovel a neighbor's driveway, deliver food, books, and games to families in quarantine.
    - ✓ Organize a virtual book or movie club.
    - ✓ Go outside and play in the snow. Take a walk, hike, go sledding.
    - ✓ Celebrate the winter solstice or plan a winter scavenger hunt and search for different types of trees, wildlife, stars (it gets dark early!).

- Videos to share

  Please share these on your website and social media platforms.

Post Description	Links
Given the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, Vermont has announced new policies around social gatherings and travel. #StaySafeVT	Facebook YouTube

- Newsletter Drop-in

  The 2020 holiday/winter break will be different for most of us, and we need to adjust. Family traditions that brought us together in the past may need be adapted to keep people safe this year. We can still capture the spirit of the holidays if we get creative. There are so many ways to express love, gratitude and generosity that won't put your family or others at risk of getting sick. This is disappointing, but you can work to manage expectations ahead of time. Talk with your family about your time together and find ways to safely celebrate. With an open mind and a flexible plan, we will get through to the other side of this pandemic.

You can find more information on the Health Department's website.

Images to Use

Sample images to use with the messages

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Updated Holiday Toolkit for Schools

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Resources

- COVID-19 in Vermont (Department of Health)
- Holiday celebrations during COVID (CDC)
- Information for Vermont's businesses (ACCD)
- Information for Vermont's schools (AOE)
- Mental Health Support