

LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit Thirty

"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"

Steve Tucker, Superintendent of Schools
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March 19, 2021

Good Day, Laconia School District Community.

I started my day at Lakes Region General Hospital (LRGH), where members of our school staff including our nurses, School Board, and the Fire Department are supporting the Covid-19 vaccination effort for the Laconia School District. Fire Chief Kirk Beattie, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Bean, and LRGH Coordinator for Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness John Prickett, my administrative assistant Regina Theberge, our Human Resources Coordinator Tami Horan, and our building principals all had important roles in organizing this vaccination event. If you see them, feel free to offer them a "thank you" for their efforts. I am proud to be a member of a community who can come together to support others and our schools.

Two important pieces of guidance came from our state's public health partners this week that are now in effect in the Laconia School District. This new guidance will impact our staff, students, and families in our school community.

First, the new travel guidance that the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Bureau of Infections Disease on March 16th states: "Domestic travel within the U.S. outside of New England no longer requires quarantine upon return to NH, although people are recommended to still follow CDC's travel guidance, including wearing a well-fitted face mask while traveling, practicing social distancing, getting tested 3-5 days after travel (with a molecular or PCR-based test), and limiting public interactions after travel (even if not required to quarantine)." Here is [a link to the complete, updated guidance on travel](#).

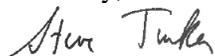
Second, in a school setting, the close contact guidelines have changed. In a conference call with education and childcare partners on Wednesday, Dr. Benjamin Chan and his team shared the following: "(The New Hampshire Department Division of Public Health Services) will not recommend quarantine for students or staff if (a COVID-19) exposure occurs in the classroom setting where students and staff are seated and spaced at least 3 feet apart with consistent and correct face mask use. Chan's team added that "(t)his guidance applies only to controlled and monitored educational classroom settings (including K-12 schools, colleges, and universities)." This new guidance is based on research and data which shows that community transmission is not occurring in schools. The data from the Laconia School District also shows that our schools are safe places. Here is [a link to the presentation with more information from this call](#).

Though these updates are a reflection of research and declining COVID-19 cases, please note that the safety protocols established by the state and the school district continue to be important in promoting health and safety. Following health protocols is a major reason that our schools are safe places.

Also, we did have a staff member test positive for COVID-19 at Elm Street Elementary School. The infection occurred outside the school district. The close contacts have been notified and will quarantine.

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend. Thank you for all that you do to support our kids in the Laconia School District.

Sincerely,



Steve Tucker
Superintendent of the Laconia School District