

August 25, 2020

Dear Barnet School Families,

As we approach the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, we would like to share our general COVID-19 school health plan with you, following the updated (8/11) guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education and the Vermont Department of Health. COVID-19 is spread mostly by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. Important practices that help reduce the risk of spreading the virus and reduce the risk of infection, including facial coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, staying home when sick and environmental cleaning have been incorporated into this plan. The measures presented here will help to ensure the safest school environment possible during the coming year. Please contact Dr. Millington (luisa.millington@ccsuvt.net), principal, or Ruth Vaal (ruth.vaal@ccsuvt.net), school nurse, whenever you have questions or concerns. Please know that during this pandemic, educating our Barnet students, while keeping our school community free of illness, is our number one priority.

***As partners, we will strive to achieve this in the following three ways:***

- 1. Keeping individuals infected with COVID-19 from entering our building*
- 2. Decreasing transmission of COVID-19 among staff and students*
- 3. Swiftly identifying individuals with COVID-19 to put containment procedures into place*

**School Health Plan (this is a general overview, details will follow):**

- Students will be screened every morning @ home, by parents/caregivers, before leaving for school.
- Home screenings will check for symptoms of COVID-19, a fever, close contact with someone that has COVID-19 and travel to areas outside of VT in the red or yellow zones (greater than 400 active covid cases per million) in the past 14 days.
- Screening forms will go home in Friday folders every week. Parents/caregivers will be asked to place this form in a (school provided) sheet protector, attached to their child's backpack, where daily screenings can be documented and signed off on.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus, ordered by age (youngest in the front to oldest in the back).
- All students arriving at school shall enter the building via their assigned entrance (primary, main or middle school wing), where temperature checks and health screenings are conducted. Students will then be escorted to their classrooms.
- Parents/caregivers are asked to drop off their child outside and leave as soon as their child has passed through the screening and safely entered the building (to avoid congregating). An outdoor classroom will be set up for the first few days of PK, in order to accommodate parent escort.
- Individuals who are self-quarantining due to close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual should not drop-off or pick-up students.
- Classrooms have been arranged to minimize the number of individuals in a room.

- Students will remain in grade-level cohorts throughout the day, including recess, and teachers will rotate to classrooms.
- Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classroom. Next day menus will be filled out by students at the end of each school day. There will be no food sharing.
- Outdoor classroom spaces will be utilized. A large tent and 2 porta potties will be added to our outdoor space.
- All staff and students will practice physical distancing. Plexiglass dividers are available as needed.
- HAND WASHING WILL BE ENCOURAGED AT MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT EACH AND EVERY DAY!
- All staff and students will be required to wear a cloth facial covering while in the building, as well as outside where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Please provide your child with three (labeled with name) clean face coverings each day. Instructions for making, wearing and washing facial coverings can be found on the CDC website @ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html> *Cloth or medical face masks, with ear loops, are recommended. **Neck Gaiters have been proven to not be an effective form of protection against respiratory droplets and are not allowed for use in school.***
- Safety cones will be placed down the center of the hallways as a visual reminder to walk down the R side of the hallways.
- Lockers will not be utilized, students will rely on their backpacks to house belongings.
- One individual will be allowed in a bathroom at a time.
- Drinking fountains will not be used. Please provide your student with a water bottle daily. These can be filled at classroom sinks or hallway filling stations.
- Additional cleaning will be incorporated throughout each day and week.
- An orderly dismissal will occur @ 1:30, releasing oldest down to youngest students.
- Staff and students are asked to stay home when sick and to quarantine before returning to school if they have traveled out-of-state at any point during the school year. This cross state travel map is updated every Friday:  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/traveling-vermont>

In closing, we would like to increase awareness that community (not school) transmission will likely be the primary mode of COVID-19 infection, and due to the 14-day incubation period, students, families and staff should make extra effort to avoid large gatherings and other situations that put them at greater risk for exposure in the weeks leading up to school opening. This will help to create the safest environment possible for return to school. Also, please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you are in need of a backpack, thermometer, or cloth facial covering.

Thank you, in advance, for contributing to our partnership in these efforts,

*Dr. Luisa Millington*  
Dr. Luisa Millington, Principal

*Ruth Vaal*  
Ruth Vaal, School Nurse