

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

130 Kinsey Road, Barton, Vermont 05822

Tel: (802) 525-1204 ♦ www.ocsu.org

September 28, 2021

Dear Parents, Students and Staff of OCSU:

In order to maintain safe learning environments for our students and staff, we are **updating** a few COVID guidelines as recommended by the Agency of Education and the Vermont Department of Health from the letter sent earlier in September:

- All OCSU schools will open for full in-person instruction with no distancing requirements in place.
- **Students and Staff at Lake Region High School are required to wear masks until November 1, 2021 (see details below).**
- All PreK-8 Staff and Students are required to wear masks every day.
- Per Federal regulation, all students and adults riding a school bus must wear masks.
- There are no daily health check requirements or temperature checks however, please keep your child home if they are sick or showing symptoms of COVID:
 - Fever (100.4 °F or higher)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Schools will be doing contact tracing in the event a positive case is identified and families will be notified on next steps if needed.
- There are no options for virtual instruction in OCSU this year; however, The Agency of Education still offers home study.

In order to help clarify, we will be starting the year with all students and staff wearing masks.

After November 1st, we will notify families if Lake Region Union High School student vaccinations have met the 80% threshold as recommended by the Agency of Education and Department of Health. Only when 80% of students who are eligible for the vaccine have been vaccinated will Lake Region High School staff and students be able to go mask free.

For this school year, until guidance changes, all Lake Region Elementary and Middle School students and staff will need to wear masks. (Orleans, Barton, Glover, Irasburg, Albany and Brownington)

As the Vermont Agency of Education guidance changes, we will inform staff and families. The Orleans Central Supervisory Union administration, faculty and staff are focused on maintaining safe environments across all schools as we did last year during the peak of the pandemic.

Please use the following link for more information from the VT Department of Health.
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19>

Please feel free to reach out to your Building Principal or me at the Central Office with questions. Please note that the restrictions above may change pending new guidelines from the Agency of Education or the Department of Health.

We are excited to have all staff and students in person and ready for a new school year. We appreciate your support as we move through these necessary steps to safely open our buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Penny Chamberlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Penny Chamberlin
Superintendent of Schools
Orleans Central Supervisory Union