February 5, 2021

Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

This letter is to inform you that RSU 16 has two positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases at Elm Street School (ESS), and one positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) case at Poland Community School (PCS). There are no close contacts within the school at ESS or PCS. All in-person instruction at ESS and PCS will go on as originally scheduled.

Our protocols for screening, identifying close contacts, and quarantining have helped contain the spread of the virus within the school and all cases continue to be contracted from household or community transmission. We need all members of our communities to help control the spread of COVID-19 and help keep our doors open for in-person instruction. If you are visiting or riding with someone outside the immediate household, please wear a mask, maintain social distance, and wash your hands. In order to keep our buildings open, we need to keep the rate of community transmission low.

As always, please monitor yourself/your students for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. It is important that you call a healthcare facility before you show up in person. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. It can be more severe in adults 60 years and older and in those with underlying conditions. The virus mainly spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and an uninfected person breathes in the virus. Signs and symptoms include:

· fever or chills	· headache	· congestion or runny nose
· cough	· new loss of taste or smell	· nausea or vomiting
· shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	· sore throat	· diarrhea
	· muscle or body aches	· fatigue

If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, please notify your student's school nurse immediately. This includes our VL5 students and household members.

DURING school hours, please call your student's school nurse:

MCS: 346-6471; Mary Wallace

ESS: 345-3381; Laurie Camire

PCS: 998-4915; Louise Robinson

PRHS & BWMS: 998-5400; Lisa Storer and Pam Tracy

AFTER school hours/weekends/holidays/vacation weeks:

Please call RSU16 COVID Nurse Tracer, Jessica Taylor at 740-0791.

Now that there are authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines in the United States, accurate vaccine information is critical. If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccines, visit the CDC website for information about vaccines. It describes in more detail the vaccines and provides answers to commonly asked questions. Also, your health care provider is a resource for information about vaccines.

Thank you for your continued efforts in helping to keep our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Healey