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October 19, 2020

Dear Kearsarge Regional School District Families,

Today, the District was notified that a KRES at New London student tested positive for COVID 19 on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. However, the family and the District were not informed of the positive result until today. The student has not been present in the school since October 13th. This student has a sibling at Kearsarge Regional Middle School who has tested negative, but is quarantined as per NH DHHS guidelines.

We also received information today that a student at Kearsarge Regional High School tested positive for COVID-19. Due to the greater complexity of contact tracing at the High School, all students and staff at KRHS will be shifted to *At Home: Remote Learning* for at least tomorrow, Tuesday, October 20, 2020, to allow for deep cleaning, disinfecting, and necessary contact tracing in collaboration with NH DHHS. The district will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Finally, the District was also notified today of an unrelated case to the two described above. This case involved a parent of students from NLES, KRMS, and KRHS has tested positive. All impacted students have been home since before the notice of a positive test, and will remain so as per NH DHHS guidelines.

We are actively working with and following guidelines from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS has requested we provide contact information for anyone who has been identified as having had close contact (within 6 feet for longer than 10 minutes) with the infected person. DHHS will contact these individuals or their parents/guardians and will instruct them about self-quarantining at home. Those families and staff will be directed to get tested and keep themselves or their children quarantined until 14 days following their last possible exposure. A guide for self-quarantine can be found [here](#).

If you or your child are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, chills, respiratory illness, aches or change in taste and smell, please stay home and away from others and get a COVID-19 test. You may also choose to seek out testing from your healthcare provider or at one of the [testing sites](#) located throughout the state (<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-testing-options.pdf>). If you choose either of these options, you should bring this letter with you.

Please note that if you or your child are currently quarantined, you must complete quarantine, even if your test is negative. This is because the maximum amount of time from being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 and testing positive is 14 days. Therefore, even if your child tests negative today, they would need to quarantine until they reach the 14th day following exposure.

The safety of our children, employees and visitors is our top priority. To ensure your health and safety, we have been following [CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting](#) for our high-traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces. In addition, to prevent further spread of the disease in our community, please:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with others. When outside your home, keep a distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others. This is known as social distancing.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your mouth and nose to protect others when in public areas.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you have a fever or are not feeling well.

Children may worry about themselves, their family and friends getting sick with COVID-19. Tips for talking to children about COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

To learn more about COVID-19, please check these trusted resources:

[NH Department of Health and Human Services](#)
[United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Respectfully,

Winfried Feneberg
Superintendent, SAU 65

Michael Bessette
Assistant Superintendent