

December 22, 2021

Dear Washington Central Community,

As we enter into our December break, I want to take a moment to thank you for your commitment to our schools and your diligence in keeping our schools safe for students and staff. Last June when we ended the school year I don't think we ever could have imagined that 2021-2022 would be such a challenging year. I know that many of us are exhausted and are eagerly anticipating the next ten days as we prepare to unwind, recharge, and spend time with family and friends.

To that end, it is important for you to know that the Agency of Education has informed us that the Vermont Department of Health will not be advising schools of positive cases beginning tomorrow through the break, and they will not expect schools to provide line lists during this period. The AOE wants to do its part to provide school staff with an opportunity to rest and recover from a grueling fall.

In Washington Central this means that our COVID-19 coordinator Maria Melekos, our school nurses, our leadership team, and I will be taking a break from COVID work as well. Please notify us at mmelekos@u32.org if your child tests positive for COVID-19 over the break. We will not respond immediately, but we will respond in a way that ensures that we are prepared to fully implement health and safety protocols in time for our students' return to school on Monday, January 3. Please see [the letter](#) that Maria sent to families earlier today regarding an upcoming additional surveillance testing opportunity and other COVID mitigation measures for families to consider in the days ahead.

Have a wonderful break! We look forward to seeing our students in 2022!

Warmly,
Jen Miller-Arsenault
Interim Superintendent