

Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools

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Our schools are caring, creative, and equitable communities that empower all children to build on their talents and passions to grow into engaged citizens and life-long learners.

11/11/2020

Dear MRPS Community,

At yesterday's press conference, Governor Scott announced new measures the state is taking to limit the spread of COVID-19. The number of positive cases are on the rise. State health officials are attributing this rise to informal gatherings of friends and family as well as travel outside our state boundaries. In response, Governor Scott suspended the use of the travel map and declared that anyone traveling into Vermont need to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival or for 7 days with a negative COVID test.

The community can find the new travel guidelines at:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>.

These new rules influence our community in the following ways:

1. **If you travel out of Vermont for a few hours, a day trip, or a longer period of time** you must quarantine for 14 days when you return OR if you have no symptoms, quarantine for 7 days, schedule a PCR test, and end the quarantine early if the test is negative. *If your student traveled with you, your student will need to quarantine as well.* Please call the school to let them know.
2. **If you are hosting travelers (eg. family, kids returning from college, etc...), they must quarantine but you do not IF they can stay isolated in your home.** A traveler visiting you must wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from others, use a separate bathroom (if possible), eat separately, and otherwise not be in close contact with you or your family. Wash your hands and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly. Check yourself and your children for symptoms for 14 days and contact your primary care physician should you develop them. If these guidelines are followed, your student may participate in in-person instruction.
3. **People traveling out of state for essential purposes do not need to quarantine.** Essential travel includes travel for personal safety, health care, care of others, parental shared custody, medicine, etc...The quarantine exemption only applies to the person

under essential travel rules. It does not apply to anyone else who travels with you, for non-essential reasons.

If you have not done so already, please fill out and return the travel form you received in the mail to your school. Alternatively you can complete and submit this [electronic version of the travel form](#). Your cooperation helps us to become aware of and have the opportunity to get ahead of any potential risk. If you are traveling, MRPS will be in contact to help answer any questions you have regarding quarantine.

Much of our ability to keep the schools free from COVID-19 depends on the honor system. Our community needs to trust each other. We need to trust that everyone is abiding by these quarantine rules and that everyone wears a mask, keeps a safe distance, and doesn't gather with people outside our family units. Not one of us can stamp this thing out by ourselves, but we can do it together with everyone abiding by the rules put in place.

The responsibility this community has placed on me for keeping our students and staff safe is one that I hold in highest regard. I am closely watching both the number of positive cases and the actions the state takes. I am also advocating for more clarity as to exactly what metrics dictate a move back to Step 1, or all virtual learning. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or express your concerns. This type of feedback is essential in my advocacy efforts with statewide leadership.

Sincerely,
Libby Bonesteel
Superintendent