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DCRSD Update 12.18.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 8:21 PM

All,

I am writing to share that we were informed of five new cases today in our educational community. Contact tracing is complete.

We continue to have no evidence that these positive COVID-19 cases are a result of attendance to in-person learning in the Dudley-Charlton RSD. The new cases include siblings. We appreciate our families and staff members who self-identify the symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home and contact a doctor or get tested. We continually respect your proactive efforts to keep COVID-19 out of our schools.

It is our strongest belief that our current in-person learning model and the mitigating strategies do work to prevent transmission in our schools. Daily [self-certification/pre-screening](#) for students and staff has also played an integral part in our ability to understand and control the integrity of our school environments.

With the holiday coming next week, a lot of life happens outside of our schools and is also the primary driver of positive COVID-19 cases in our communities. We know the safety of keeping our social bubble and work life orbits small will aide in mitigating new positive COVID-19 cases. Additionally, when outside of your bubble, if you do any or all of the strategies of wearing masks, washing hands, using hand sanitizer and maintaining safe distances, your actions will work to prevent transmission of COVID-19. We appreciate everyone's effort, thank you!

I also want to take this opportunity to share the Dudley-Charlton RSD expectations with the start of the holiday vacation next week and travel out of state. These expectations are directly connected to the state of [Massachusetts Travel Order](#) in place and we support your plans but we must maintain the health, safety and well-being of all students and staff when we return from the holiday, Monday, January 4, 2021. Therefore, if your family will be traveling out of state during the break, please notify your child's school nurse. Our nurses are working extremely hard to maintain records that provide safe entry to in-person learning for all students. In accordance with the [Massachusetts Travel Order](#), any travel to a restricted state requires a 14-day quarantine or proof of a negative COVID-19 test. The COVID-19 test must be completed within 72 hours of a return to Massachusetts and must be a PCR test, not a rapid test. Under the travel order, testing does not apply to children under 10 as proof of a negative PCR test from/for the parent or caregiver that accompanied an under 10 year old child[ren] must be provided prior to the student's return to school. Your child must quarantine at home until COVID-19 test results are received and a return date is confirmed by the school nurse. The list of [restricted and lower risk states](#) is updated frequently and should be reviewed prior to travel.

Your child may not return to school without fulfillment of the requirements of the [Massachusetts Travel Order](#). This applies to all district employees and we greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance in this matter as we work together to maintain the health, safety and well-being of all Dudley-Charlton educational community members. We need to do everything we can to keep COVID-19 out of our schools.

Lastly, we continue to evaluate all circumstances that would lead us to full remote learning for students. Of the utmost importance is evidence of transmission in schools and our ability to safely staff our schools. I ask again, for all families to prepare their children for a transition to remote learning if the circumstances lead us there as it may happen quite quickly.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools

