

January 12, 2021

Dear OSSD Community,

Our Covid Response team meets daily in the afternoon to review case counts, check the probable attendance at each school for the next day and to evaluate our supply of testing kits. Our positivity rate is high and climbing in each of our schools including the technical center, we are down to fourteen remaining rapid tests, and we do not expect a resupply until early next week.

Given the state of things, **the district and all its schools will close tomorrow, January 13,** with an expected reopening on January 18<sup>th</sup>. On the positive side, this break may be enough time to allow this surge to peak and begin subsiding before we return.

The response team will meet on the Monday holiday and will send out a communication outlining which schools will begin session on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Many parents are currently testing at home, if your student tests positive, please let one of our school nurses know via email during the two-day closure, their contact information is listed below.

Sadie Lyford	RUHS	<a href="mailto:slyford@orangesouthwest.org">slyford@orangesouthwest.org</a>
Beth OSHA	RES	<a href="mailto:bosha@orangesouthwest.org">bosha@orangesouthwest.org</a>
Brooke Naylor	Braintree and Brookfield	<a href="mailto:bnaylor@orangesouthwest.org">bnaylor@orangesouthwest.org</a>
Stephanie Leonard	RTCC	<a href="mailto:sleonard@orangesouthwest.org">sleonard@orangesouthwest.org</a>

Those who test positive using an at home kit are also being asked by the State to report their results to the Vermont Department of Health through the link below (scroll down until you see the *Report Self-Test* button).

[What to Do if You Test Positive for COVID-19 | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov)

As a final note, we're finding that most people here who have recently tested positive have minor symptoms – minor nasal congestion and a scratchy throat. If you experience these symptoms, please get tested, even if those symptoms are mild.

In closing, I have an extremely large number of emails that came in yesterday and today that I have not had time to attend to; I do apologize; it is my hope to respond to each one before the end of the day on Friday.

Please take care and be safe,

Layne Millington

OSSD Superintendent