

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

MATTHEW T. D'ANDREA, LP.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

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HOPE T. MACLEOD, M.ED., BCBA
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
(SECONDARY)

RICHARD M. SMITH, Ed.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

NANCY W. DUGAN, M.ED., BCBA
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
(ELEMENTARY)

November 23, 2020

Dear MVPS Community,

In light of the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, we are urging all families to stay local for the Thanksgiving holiday. You may not realize that most states are no longer considered "lower risk," so out-of-state travel will require proof of a negative PCR COVID test prior to students returning to school. Vermont and Hawaii are the only states currently listed as "lower risk" for Massachusetts residents.

Travel within Massachusetts is also not without risk.

Please keep in mind that the Governor's most recent order limits indoor gatherings to 10 people or less.

Any time you are near people you don't live with:

- Wear a mask when not eating or drinking
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from others
- If gathering indoors, improve ventilation by opening windows and doors
- Consider if those around you may be at higher risk of severe illness from Covid-19, such as older adults or those with certain medical conditions, and take extra precautions

CDC and DPH are also urging all individuals to only socialize with others from their immediate household.

Holiday gatherings increase the risk of Covid-19 spread. Protect your family and community.

- Host a virtual celebration
- Make it a special holiday at home with the people you live with.
- Limit your in-person gatherings to people you live with or a very small group of people who you are in regular contact.
- Keep visits short
- Inside gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people by the Governor of MA
- Outside gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people by the Governor of MA

We are fortunate that we have not seen transmission in our schools and we hope that the above steps will help to keep our school numbers low. Families can see the number of students and staff in quarantine in each building by visiting the MVPS website at: <http://box2400.temp.domains/~mvypsorg/Staging/>.

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of your support during this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Happy Thanksgiving!

Nicole Barlett, Edgartown School; Janice Brown, MVPCS; Kristine Cammorata, West Tisbury School ; Catherine Coogan, Tisbury School; Linda Leonard, MVRHS; Pam Rendek, Chilmark School; Lana Schaefer, Oak Bluffs School; Matthew D'Andrea, Superintendent