

School Union #69  
Hope, Appleton and  
Lincolnvilve



# Superintendent's Update January 25, 2022

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## Student Activities:

This year, we have been able to offer some of the fun and enriching traditions and activities that we could not last year. Basketball has been going well, and our teams have been able to play much of the season, despite some interruptions due to rising Covid cases. Games have been livestreamed this year, which has been a great success!



Before the Winter Break, Hope and Appleton Students, Teachers and Staff were treated to spirited holiday caroling! Thanks to Ms. Carroll and Ms. Bustos for inviting me to sing along!

### HES:



### AVS:



### Cases and changes to the COVID protocols:

As I am sure you have heard by now, the Maine CDC and Maine DOE have sent out updated guidance around school safety protocols related to Covid 19. Upon reviewing these new protocols and seeking feedback from each school's nurse, health and safety team and school committee, the administrators and I implemented the changes as dictated by the CDC. Most significantly, these changes shortened the required quarantine time for positive cases to 5 days (from the date of the onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, the date of the positive test) from 10. One important thing to note is that return to school is based on symptoms, not just the days that have gone by. No one should be in school with a fever or symptoms of COVID 19. If you have any questions, please check with your school nurse. These changes are dependent upon a well-fitting mask, worn indoors at all times, except when eating or drinking.

We have seen an exponential rise in cases at all schools since the winter break. The good news is that school spread still appears to be minor when compared with community spread, although it isn't always easy to tell. Vaccinations, pooled testing and masking have helped us keep the number of students who have to stay home for a prolonged period of time to a minimum. Schools have begun reporting cases in batches rather than one notification at a time, because too many letters can get confusing. In addition, Omicron spreads so quickly, that trying to contact trace is like "trying to stop a bullet train with a bicycle", according to Dr. Shah. We get much more up to date information from families when it comes to symptoms and exposure. We know that everyone is exhausted from the diligence and inconvenience required to manage the potential spread and impact of Covid, but we are right there with you and count on our families to keep the lines of communication open! If you need more information about symptom management, vaccines or the safety of pooled testing, reach out to your child's primary care doctor.

**District news:**

School audits are underway and should be completed by the end of February. This will give us a clear picture of our finances in time for budget season, which is already underway! If you want to know more about your school's budget, be sure to attend your school committee meetings, budget will be a discussion item through March, at least.

Appleton's school nurse, Sandy Fuller, will be welcoming student nurses from UMA this spring. Having prospective teachers and nurses learn from our incredible staff is the hallmark of a great school system. Our schools are not only centers of learning for children, but for adults too!



The Days are getting longer! As of today, we have gained 45 minutes of daylight since December 21st. Although it's cold and you have to really search to find some color outside, warmer days lie ahead and the increase in daylight will bring on new life! In the meantime, it looks like we are in for some significant snow on Saturday...should be great for skiing and snowshoeing! For now, I hope you enjoy the photo (above) of seamoke at Lincolnville Beach!