

Regarding Stony Brook and Eddy Elementary Schools

January 26, 2021

After further consultation with the town health officials and the Brewster School Committee, I am writing to confirm that in the interest of public health, it is necessary for us to shift the Stony Brook Elementary School and the Eddy Elementary school to a fully remote learning model. **There will be no school for students tomorrow, Wednesday, January 27, to allow staff the time to gather materials and prepare for remote learning to start on Thursday, January 28.** The Nauset Integrated Preschool based at Stony Brook Elementary is also shifting to a remote model. The YMCA and the Nauset Youth Alliance programs will be closed.

The planned return to in-person learning is following the February vacation break, on Monday, February 22, 2021. This period of time out of school is important to help break the cycle of transmission. Per our School Nurse Leader Mary Ellen Reed, research has found that the typical incubation period for COVID-19 is about five days. Approximately 97% of the people who become infected and develop symptoms will do so within 11 to 12 days and about 99% within 14 days. The time period we have established for remote learning, with a return after February vacation break, aligns with the recommended 14-day quarantine period and also allows a safety margin for tracking community spread data. It is our hope that during the period of remote learning and school vacation that the cycle of increased transmission will have subsided. We will continue to actively monitor cases in conjunction with the town health officials and will notify you mid-week during February vacation to confirm if we are able to return to in-person learning on the Monday after the February break. The decision to return to in-person learning will be based upon the number of active cases within our school community as well as the town of Brewster as a whole.

During the time of remote learning and vacation break, it is important for us to be able to track any new cases. Please report any positive COVID-19 cases to your school principal and your school nurse. Please also report if you have been identified as a close contact of a positive individual. I know this is a challenging situation for families. The health and safety of all in our community must take precedence at this time. It is my hope that the positive COVID-19 numbers will go down and we can get back to in-person learning as soon as possible. The best way to make that happen is for everyone to continue to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. With substantial community spread and the February break approaching, vigilance with limiting potential COVID-19 exposure will be the key to our ability to return to in-person learning.

Sincerely, Thomas M. Conrad
Superintendent of Schools