



NEWS FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE October 2021

Important Dates

**11/1-11/4: Health Hub
dental van**

**11/05: Lion's Club
vision screening**

Dear Sharon Families,

We have heard your feedback, and in response, we have decided to alternate a bi-weekly newsletter from the nurse and principal. We've had a great several weeks at Sharon Elementary School. I am happy to report that the number of students with symptoms has dramatically decreased since the beginning of the year. We had a few days of 100% attendance at school, and no students came to the health office with symptoms!

Many of the grades have gone on field trips to VINs, Hulbert Center, Ashley Community Forest, and Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park. I heard glowing reports; the trips were clearly educational and nourished students and staff's physical and mental health.

For those of you who filled out and sent in the green medical forms, thank you! Unfortunately, I am still missing 27, so if you haven't filled one out, please do so ASAP. The forms ask for important emergency contact information and details about allergies and medical conditions such as asthma.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be doing hearing screenings in K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades. Let me know if you have a concern about your child's hearing and I'll be sure to fit them into the schedule. The Lion's Club will be here on November 5th to do Spot Vision screening in Pre-K through 6th grades.

COVID Information: The difference between antigen tests (rapid tests) and PCR (polymerase chain reaction) molecular tests:

Both the **rapid antigen test** and the **PCR test** indicate a current COVID-19 infection. An antibody test suggests if you had a past infection and would also be positive if you are vaccinated since you have antibodies to protect you if you are exposed to a COVID-19 infection.



The 5th graders had a lovely day at Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park on Monday Oct. 18

Stay in touch!

If you need to return your health forms, or have any questions, feel free to email me at

JLLOYD@WRVSU.ORG

or call at

802-788-8048

Our old email addresses are not active anymore, so please make sure you have the correct one (especially if you haven't heard from me in a few days!)

All our emails finish now with WRVSU.org

People who have completed vaccination as of October 21st:
462.5K in Vermont!
(80% of eligible Vermonters)

39,338 in Windsor County
(80.4% of eligible Windsor population)

The pros of an **antigen test** are that it is quick (15-30 minutes for results) and doesn't require a laboratory to process it. A rapid strep test which many of you are familiar with, is an antigen test. The COVID antigen test can be performed in a medical office, at home, or in school. The con is that it can give false-negative results if it's early in the infection when there aren't enough specific proteins on the surface of the virus to be detected.

The pros of a molecular **PCR test** are that it is highly accurate in detecting a COVID-19 infection, it requires only small amounts of genetic material from the virus, so at the onset of a COVID-19 infection, it can be detected when the viral load is low. The con is that PCR tests require expensive and specialized equipment run in a laboratory that extracts RNA and amplifies it. In addition, it can take hours or days to get results.

Hopefully, starting in December, the WRSVU will offer the option of students signing up for the "**test to stay**" program, which will use an antigen test. Students who have been determined to have had COVID-19 exposure while at school can stay at school if they have **no symptoms and their rapid antigen test is negative, or the student is fully vaccinated**. Although antigen tests can have false-negative results at an early stage of an infection when the viral load is low, **the test will be given on seven consecutive days** during the typical incubation period for COVID-19 infections.

This is a lot of information that can be difficult to parse through. Feel free to email me with your questions, but rest assured that I will continue talking about these tests before implementing them in our school.

Enjoy the cool autumn weather.

Nurse Jill

A word cloud centered around the text "School Nurse". The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text. The words include: "Invaluable", "Awesome", "Educated", "Improves Attendance", "Professional Caregiver", "Emergency", "Disease Manager", "Listener", "Compassionate", "Wellness Assessment", "Skilled", "Healthy Children Learn Better", "Caring", "Healer", and "Kind".