



# MONTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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October 22, 2020

Dear Montville Public Schools Families and Staff,

Over the past week, we have had positive COVID-19 cases at Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary School, Oakdale Elementary School, Montville High School and the Palmer Building. We were notified today that a second member of the Oakdale Elementary School community has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). This second case at Oakdale has no relation to the first case, but at this point, we are faced with the fact that there is community spread in the town of Montville and it is affecting our schools. We also have received notification of an additional positive test at Montville High School.

Working with the Uncas Health District, we have decided that our best course of action at this time is to separate students and staff by closing all district schools. **Schools will be closed for two weeks and will reopen on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.** While we have been working hard to carefully identify, isolate and quarantine only affected students and staff members whenever possible, when faced today with the fact that we would have to close a third school, it has become clear that we need to move to our remote learning plan. As with all cases, we are continuing to conduct contact tracing and notify close contacts of the need to quarantine.

All students should enter their Seesaw or Google Classrooms tomorrow (Friday) morning at the start of the school day to continue their instruction through remote learning. Their teachers will provide schedules for their learning activities. If your child receives special education services, the Implementation Plan which was developed this fall will still be in place.

Breakfast and lunch are available for all students during remote learning and can be picked up at Montville High School, Oakdale Elementary School, and Mohegan Elementary School. For more information on meal pick-up, please go to [Grab and Go Meals](#).

During the district closure, we urge students and families to practice social distancing and strongly discourage participation in group events such as sports teams and neighborhood Trick or Treating. By following safety protocols and daily self-monitoring during the two week school closure, we will be able to reduce the number of cases in the community, and we look forward to returning to schools safely on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Please notify the school if your student has a positive COVID-19 test result so we can track cases in our population. Local COVID-19 test sites can be found on the Uncas Health District website at: [uncashd.org](http://uncashd.org). There is also free COVID-19 testing on Monday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 at the Oakdale Fire House.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Laurie Pallin