



**BASS LAKE JOINT UNION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

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“Every Child...a Promise”

40096 Indian Springs Road Oakhurst, CA 93644

(559) 642-1555

<https://www.basslakeschooldistrict.com>

January 25, 2021

Dear Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District Family & Community Stakeholders,

On Friday, January 22, 2021, we received notification that a Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District (BLJUESD) staff member had tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the individual involved, we believe it is best for everyone in our great mountain community to communicate transparently, so that we all can make well-informed decisions for our families.

There is nothing more important to our District than the health, safety, and welfare of our students, staff, families, and our mountain community. We continue working directly with the Madera County Department of Public Health to address this situation. After reviewing the date of the positive test results, symptom onset dates, and the results of a contact tracing investigation, the infected employee was last on the Oakhurst Elementary School campus on Friday, January 15, 2021. The results of contact tracing indicate that the employee did not have what is defined as “close contact” (six-feet or less for 15-minutes in duration or longer) during that last work day. Two days later, on January 17, 2021, the employee began experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Out of an abundance of caution, the employee did not report to work during the week of January 18-22, opting instead to self-quarantine until taking a test and receiving the results of that test.

The employee was tested for COVID-19 on Wednesday, January 20. The positive results were obtained two days later on Friday, January 22. There were two other employees who were potentially exposed on Friday, January 15, but the exposure does not meet the threshold to be determined “close contacts”. Out of an abundance of caution, these two additional employees have been conducting their work assignments remotely during a self-quarantine period. There have been no other known cases of COVID-19 infection as a result of this case at this time. No students were exposed as “close contacts” of the infected employee.

The District will continue to follow all COVID-related safety procedures as described in the District’s COVID Prevention Program, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.basslakeschooldistrict.com/cms/lib/CA02209339/Centricity/Domain/4/COVID-19%20Prevention%20Program%20CPP%20Bass%20Lake%20JUESD%2012-31-2020.pdf>

COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, including in our community, we must remain vigilant.

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Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough and shortness of breath, as well as other symptoms that also are commonly associated with the common cold. If you or any member of your family exhibit these types of symptoms, please contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after COVID exposure.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, California Department of Public Health, and guidelines in the District's COVID Prevention Program recommend the following best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-80% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.
- Wear a cloth mask in public

Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff, families, and community members. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the actions and reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. These are incredible times in which we are living. Everyone is greatly encouraged to come together in support of our students, staff, community, and schools.

We've come so far in responding to the effects of this pandemic in these past nearly 11 months. We are getting closer every day, especially with vaccines on the way in the coming weeks and improved treatments for those infected and fighting this virus that has proven to be very deadly in some cases. I ask that we come together as a team and continue addressing our needs safely by making informed decisions with regard to our students, staff, and instructional programs. Together, as a team, there is nothing that can hold the Bass Lake School District Family back!

Sincerely,

Randall M. Seals

Randall M. Seals
Superintendent

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