



**Copley Hospital**

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[livewellamoille.com](http://livewellamoille.com) | [copleyvt.org](http://copleyvt.org)

Dear Team Copley,

Many of you have read or seen the unfortunate article about Copley in the local papers yesterday. A copy of the article is attached.

The event described in the article involves 5 members of the finance department who work in the Demar's house across the parking lot from the hospital. In-person patient contact is not part of their job. Their work is important to the hospital and they do it well, but in the course of that work they do not directly care for patients. In fact, they do not spend much time in the hospital building at all.

In early January one member of the department complained of sniffles to Jodie Legacy our IP nurse. Within hours she had interviewed the department and taken action including a testing plan and a building clean. Eventually, 5 members of the department tested positive for COVID. They are all well and back at work as of this writing. This issue never got anywhere close to involving our patients, or even within our hospital. All the standard reporting to the Vermont Department of Health was done.

This reality is of course nothing like the story portrayed in the article. They did call for Joe Woodin, at 4:30 in the evening, and said they were going to press that night. No attempt was made to talk with anyone else at Copley.

To print an article like that, with glimpses of facts presented without context or the full story, using language that is clearly meant to inflame a reader; without talking to anyone from the hospital - is unfair, irresponsible, and just plain wrong. Beyond that it disrespects and does a tremendous disservice to all the people of Copley who have worked so long, so hard, under difficult conditions during the Covid era, and have, in fact, done an outstanding job. To our knowledge, there is no case at Copley of a patient giving Covid to another patient, and no case of a staff member giving Covid to a patient.

We should all be proud of the great job we have done and continue to do throughout Covid. *You* have done all the hard work and pride is totally justified.

We are disgusted that our local paper would present our community with such a poor excuse for responsible journalism.

When faced with questions from our patients, the public and others, please be aware that the Stowe Reporter and the News & Citizen papers published this article in an attempt to sensationalize. Had they had any desire to obtain the facts it would have been a rather mundane article likely not worthy of a front-page story.

Please assure our patients and our community that Copley continues to be best in class at combating and maintaining COVID safe protocols. We hope you always reinforce Copley Hospital's commitment to safe, accessible, transparent and patient-focused care.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let your managers know so they can be proactively addressed.

Thank you for everything you do for Copley every day!