

WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dr. Terry L. Wood
Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

Out of an abundance of caution, this letter is to inform you there have been possible exposures to WMHS staff and students. Without a definitive test result of a confirmed case of (COVID-19) at Wiscasset Middle High School, school instruction will move to RED, or fully remote instruction beginning tomorrow, ***November 19th until November 30th***. Based on Maine CDC recommendations, and using our own safety protocols for safety precautions, the **Wiscasset Middle High School** will be closed for four days for any in-person instruction. Our plan stated that we would be closing for three days but due to the holiday schedule, we will be closing for four days. We will be conducting extensive, cleaning, and disinfecting, which has begun today to help prevent any spread of COVID-19.

Wiscasset Elementary School will remain open and in the current hybrid learning model.

Keeping each student and staff member safe and healthy is our number one priority. Please be assured that during this time we will take all precautionary measures to ensure that our schools are safe to return to school on November 30th.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. It can be more severe in adults 60 years and older and in those with underlying conditions. The virus mainly spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and an uninfected person breathes in the virus. Signs and symptoms include:

- fever or chills
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- muscle or body aches
- new loss of taste or smell
- congestion or runny nose
- diarrhea
- cough
- fatigue
- headache
- sore throat
- nausea or vomiting

Please keep in mind that many things can cause respiratory illness, so students and staff should be up-to-date on influenza and routine vaccinations.

These measures include proper handwashing with soap and warm water, which is especially important after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. When soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

School related questions can be directed to Nurse, Marilyn Sprague by calling 207-882-7767. For general COVID-19 questions, dial 211 (or 1-866-811-5695). You can also text your ZIP code to 898-211 or email info@211maine.org. Call your personal healthcare provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry L. Wood
Superintendent of Schools
Wiscasset School Department