

Regional School Unit #2

Dresden – Farmingdale – Hallowell – Monmouth – Richmond

Tonya Arnold, Superintendent of Schools

7 Reed St., Hallowell, Maine 04347

November 23, 2020

Dear Monmouth Academy and Monmouth Memorial Teams,

We received information today that the situation with a positive case at MMS is also connected to another positive case at MA. Close contacts in the MMS situation are being monitored for symptoms and test results will be reported to the school nurses and administrators for follow up.

At this moment, we are taking every recommended precaution. If you are deemed as a close contact, you will receive a phone call from the school nurse or Principal. CDC assures us that with mask wearing and the other safety precautions we have in place, secondary contact is not a risk that would require quarantine or testing. So even if you or your child were near a person who was a “close contact” with the person with a positive test, there is no direct risk to you.

Close contacts will receive detailed information and directions related to isolation, testing, quarantine, and criteria needed to be met to return to school in the form letter that the CDC has provided for us to use to send to you. Testing is recommended for ‘close contacts’ 5-7 days after exposure. The letter contains contact phone numbers to reach the CDC, but one’s own health care provider is a good source of advice as well.

CDC conducts daily check in calls with all identified positive cases. Due to the volume of open cases across Maine, the CDC may not be making daily calls to close contacts. The CDC case manager does work with the school nurse and administrative team to help clarify the date of clearance to return for each individual connected to a situation. Anyone who tests positive or who is deemed a close contact, must meet certain criteria in order to return to school.

The buildings were sanitized by an outside vendor on Friday evening which is the last known exposure date. Daily sanitation will continue as well. The CDC assures us that secondary contact is not a risk that would require quarantine or testing. So even if you were near a person who was a “close contact” with the person with a positive test, there is no direct risk to you.

Out of an abundance of caution and concern over the shortage of substitutes with staffing spread so thin, Monmouth students in grades 6-12 will be learning fully remote tomorrow through Friday next week. We anticipate a return to our regular hybrid schedule for these students on Monday, December 7th. Meanwhile, grades Pre-K to 5 at MMS will continue the normal in-person hybrid schedule without interruption.

Your Principal will provide more information about the expectations for you to report to work to help keep all of our learners as engaged as possible. These situations are stressful for everyone, but especially for those closest to the situation. Everyone must protect the privacy of others. The federal FERPA and HIPA laws require us to protect student privacy. HIPA and privacy rights of employees apply to all staff. Never tell someone else’s story, especially in these situations. Please demonstrate the community compassion you do so well.

Be kind, be safe, and stay healthy.

Sincerely, 
Tonya Arnold, Superintendent

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