

Regional School Unit #2

Dresden – Farmingdale – Hallowell – Monmouth – Richmond

Tonya Arnold, Superintendent of Schools
7 Reed St., Hallowell, Maine 04347

January 7, 2021

RE: Contact Tracing Situation at Richmond High School

Dear Richmond community,

We received information today that there is one positive case connected to Richmond High School. All High School students will go fully remote beginning tomorrow Friday 1/8/21.

Contact tracing is underway, so the school nurse and administrator will be contacting staff and any parents of students who are considered close contacts of this individual today. A follow up letter for the close contacts, with detailed information and directions related to isolation, testing, quarantine, and criteria needing to be met to return to school, will be mailed to those contacts tomorrow. Close contacts need to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days from last exposure to the positive individual, and maybe longer if symptoms arise. A negative test result does not get an individual out of quarantine.

Please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. It is important that you call a health care facility before you show up in person. Stay home if you are sick.

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

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.

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 risk to you.

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Maine CDC recommends prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. 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.

Questions for the school can be directed at Nurse Mitchell by calling (207-737-4348 x 2011). 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 a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

We believe that students should be at school, if and when it is safe to do so. The building will be sanitized in preparation for tomorrow. Thankfully, the situation was contained well by our safety protocols and groupings. Therefore, the middle school will continue their regular in person hybrid schedule tomorrow without interruption.

Out of an abundance of caution and the impact on staffing coverage, the **High School** portion of the school **will go fully remote beginning tomorrow through January 18th**. At this time, we anticipate that the High School students will be able to resume regular hybrid schedules on January 19th.

These situations are stressful for everyone, but especially for those closest to the situation. Please be supportive, protect the privacy of others, and demonstrate the community compassion that makes us strong.

Be kind, be safe, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Tonya Arnold
Superintendent

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