

## Regional School Unit #2

Dresden – Farmingdale – Hallowell – Monmouth – Richmond

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

January 7, 2021

Dear Richmond Middle and High School,

We received information today that there is a situation with one positive case connected to the High School. Close contact staff have all been notified and student close contacts will all be notified today. Close contacts 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. 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 were near a person who is a “close contact” with the person with a positive test, there is no direct risk to you.

Close contacts are receiving detailed information and directions related to isolation, testing, quarantine, and criteria needed to be met to return to school. 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.

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. Based on this discussion, we have decided out of an abundance of caution and the impact on staffing coverage to have the **High School** portion of the school **go fully remote beginning tomorrow through January 18.**

The building will be sanitized tonight in preparation for tomorrow. High School staff who are not deemed close contacts will work from school. The Middle School staff and students will continue to follow their current in person schedules. Please diligently use the daily health screener, and stay home if you are sick.

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. If you feel pressured to do so, refer the person to the Principal or school nurse instead of sharing information about another staff member or student. Please demonstrate the community compassion you do so well.

Be kind, be safe, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,   
Tonya Arnold, Superintendent