

AOS 47
Airline, Dedham and Orrington School Departments



Dear Airline, Dedham and Orrington Families,

8/20/2021

As I shared in my August 6th letter, I would communicate out any changes that impacted school start up. This letter is being sent to provide an update for school in the fall. First and foremost, we will still be having all students 5 days a week in-person. What has been changed is the contact tracing requirements for schools.

On August 12th the Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC) released a new [Standard Operating Procedures](#) (SOP) document which was an updated version of the rules for Maine schools during the pandemic. One key shift in this SOP was the unexpected announcement that if everyone masks then close contacts of a positive case in a classroom do not have to be quarantined. This is a significant shift and a game changer for us. This change means that we can continue to keep the majority of our students in school when there is a positive case as long as they are masked and do not have any symptoms rather than disrupting their education.

Given the change in the criteria for quarantining students, we will make an adjustment, moving from our plan that placed us at Level 3.5, to Level 3.0. Level 3.0 still has all students back full time and in person, but masks will now be required (masking is not required outside). I believe that at some point this year we will likely see a shift in these conditions that would allow us to move to voluntary masking (still required for transportation) in Level 3.5.

The [2021-22 Levels of Instruction](#) **Level 3.0** column has further details which includes spacing students at lunch six feet apart to further support not having to quarantine them due to a positive case. The [Student Pre-Screening Tool](#) has been updated as well to reflect the changes for this year and is now on our website. Further details at the building level will be sent from your local school for Open House and other community events. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

James Stoneton II, Superintendent of Schools

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