

# RSU 38 Student and Family 2021-2022 School Year Health and Safety Protocols

(This plan will be updated as information is released from the Department of Education and the National Center for Disease Control and at the 1st business meeting each month by the School Board Of Directors.)

Goals for this plan:

- 1) Keep all students and staff safe.
- 2) Keep students in school.
- 3) Minimize impact to families when cases are identified within the school setting.
- 4) Provide a transparent source of information regarding RSU #38 protocols and procedures.

<b>General information - the following sites will be used to gather information as it relates to decision making concerning RSU #38's response to Covid-19 and associated variants.</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Maine CDC</u></a>	Maine case data by town and other demographics
<a href="#"><u>Federal CDC</u></a>	Community Transmission by County (Color coded)
<a href="#"><u>COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for Youth by SAU</u></a>	The estimated rates are based on the count of youth vaccinated in each zip code as reported to the Maine CDC on people of all ages who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The number of youth in each SAU is based on Maine DOE data on the number of youth ages 12-18 for whom the SAU was financially responsible as of June 2021.
<b>RSU #38 data</b>	Collected weekly and published at monthly Board of Director meetings concerning positive cases and contact tracing numbers for students and staff
<b>Other Informational Sources:</b>	<a href="#"><u>CDC School Guidance</u></a> <a href="#"><u>COVID Resources for schools/ Maine Department of Education</u></a>

### **Current vaccination information/definitions**

<b>Vaccinated students</b>	Students 12 and older are eligible and we ask families to share documentation with the appropriate building school nurse.
<b>Unvaccinated students</b>	Students 11 or younger or students over age 12 who have not been vaccinated will need more safety measures in place in the school setting.

**Vaccination** is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection.

RSU #38 is looking in the near future to hold “pop clinics” for eligible students and staff.

**Mask Use on school grounds** - We recommend those individuals that are unvaccinated to wear masks but we recognize that masking is a family decision and as such rests in the hands of the parents/caregivers. We encourage you to speak to school staff for support for those families that choose to mask their child. (However, the CDC currently recommends universal masking for all teachers, staff, and students in K -12 schools regardless of vaccination status or community transmission level.)

<b>All students, staff and visitors</b>	We recommend <u>unvaccinated</u> students, staff and visitors wear masks while in our buildings.
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Wear masks when on any of our district buses.</b>
<b>Outside/Outdoor/Recess</b>	Masking is optional when outdoors, it is not required and is a choice that should be communicated to school staff to assist in supporting wishes of the families.

**Physical Distancing - CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk.**

<b>Classrooms</b>	Whenever possible 3 feet will be used, however, there will be situations where 3 feet can not be maintained in instructional situations.
<b>Lunch/eating</b>	Our schools are doing their best to maintain 3 feet distance. Staff will be on hand to assist in monitoring seating capacities and alternate spaces will be available as needed. Assigned seating may be used. Please speak to building principals about lunch time specifics as needed.

**Pool Testing** - This program will be implemented per the Board of Directors. More information will be added to this document as a timeline and necessary procedures can be implemented across our schools.

**Coming soon**

**Screening Testing - A [paper COVID screener](#) will be provided to all families to start the year and bi-weekly reminders will be sent to parents to screen daily using our notification system. (We will not be using the Ruvna system this upcoming school year.)**

<b>All students</b>	Use screener on a daily basis to screen for symptoms. If you have any symptoms please contact your building nurse for further guidance.
<b>Other Sickness</b>	<b>Students should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.</b>

**Handwashing Etiquette - Continue to teach proper hand hygiene as a key element of prevention.**

<b>Hand Sanitizer</b>	Continue to be available and used when entering or exiting a room, activity, bus, etc.
<b>Hand washing</b>	Continued to be taught, emphasized and practiced when transitioning between classes, being inside or outside, using the restrooms, or after using shared items.

<b>Positive case procedures - remain the same as last year with minor changes.</b>	
<b>Positive cases</b>	<p>Isolation rooms in all schools for positive student cases. This practice will continue under supervision from the school nurses.</p> <p>Positive students are isolated for 10 days and will need medical clearance to return to extracurricular activities.</p>
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	<p>Close contacts identified and quarantined for 10 days as was done last school year. (No test needed to return to school.)</p> <p>Vaccinated students and staff will NOT be quarantined but a test is recommended 3 to 5 days after exposure. Results can be reported to your building nurse.</p>
<a href="#"><u>Maine Positive case protocols and standard operating procedures</u></a>	

<b>Other information</b>	
<b>Cleaning and Disinfection</b>	<p>Cleaning will be done on a regular routine. Cleaning will be done once during the day and attention will be paid to multi-touch surfaces using approved cleaning products, this includes buses.</p> <p>The classroom where a case is located should be cleaned according to U.S. CDC guidelines found here: <a href="#"><u>Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility Every Day and When Someone is Sick</u></a></p>
<b>Ventilation</b>	<p>RSU #38 invested in enhanced ventilation in all of our buildings. In addition, rooms with limited air flow all have portable air filtration systems. All classrooms have window fans to facilitate the flow of fresh air into and out of the classroom. We also encourage that windows be</p>

	opened whenever possible at the discretion of the teachers.
<b>Visitors</b>	Visitors are welcome! We recommend that visitors please wear masks if unvaccinated when in our buildings. Please speak to the building administrators about procedures for the individual buildings.
<b>Sports and Other Extracurricular Activities</b>	The Maine Principals' Association is the governing body for all extra curricular activities and we plan on complying fully with all guidelines that are issued. Please speak to our Student Activities Director with questions around seasonal sports and other activities.
<b>Transportation</b>	<p><u>All students/adults regardless of being vaccinated who ride buses for any reason MUST wear a mask from the moment they step on to the bus until the moment they step off the bus.</u> (This is per CDC guidelines on all public transportation.)</p> <p>We will be using bus tracking software that includes the ability to track students time spent on the bus as well as their pick up and drop off locations.</p> <p>Please be aware that students will be assigned seating similar to last year. If you would like your family unit to be grouped together, please contact the Transportation Manager and we will do our best to honor the request.</p> <p>Bus capacities will be as listed per the size of the vehicle.</p> <p>Bus windows will be fully open - 2 in the front and 2 in the back on each side of the bus. During inclement weather the windows will be open a minimum of 2 inches every other window on each side of the bus. The driver will have discretion to open more or fewer windows depending on weather conditions. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather.</p> <p>Close contacts on a bus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, if a COVID-19 case is on a bus for fewer than 15 minutes cumulative within 24 hours, no one else on the bus is considered a close contact.</li> <li>• In general, if a COVID-19 case is present on a bus for greater than 15 minutes</li> </ul>

	cumulative within 24 hours those identified as being within six feet will be considered close contacts.
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<b>Dates this plan and related information will be reviewed</b>		
Sept. 1	Dec. 1	March 2
Oct. 6	Jan. 5	April 6
Nov. 3	Feb. 2	May4
		June 1