

# WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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225 Gardiner Road

Wiscasset, ME 04578

(207) 882-4104

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**Dr. Terry L. Wood**

**Superintendent of Schools**

[twood@wiscassetschools.org](mailto:twood@wiscassetschools.org)

August 31, 2021

Dear Wiscasset School Community,

I hope you have all had a relaxing summer! I am excited to welcome you all back for the 2021-2022 school year and looking forward to seeing everyone in the next couple of days.

On Tuesday, August 24, the Wiscasset School Committee approved the reopening plan that will be implemented as we start the 2021-2022 school year. The plan includes the following health and safety procedures that support our goal of maximizing in-person learning time and social-emotional support for all students this year.

**Prescreening:** Conduct daily self-checks for symptoms or possible exposure to positive cases. Please make sure that your child's school has the correct email account so we can send the prescreening tool each morning to be completed. If you would like a paper copy to fill out, please notify the nurse's offices and we will send copies home with your child. Remember that the screening tool must be completed for each child attending school every day. We appreciate your assistance with this. If we have not received a digital or paper copy, you will be contacted to address any issues with the process.

**Masking:** Masks are required in **all indoor settings** beginning on **August 25** for all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. This includes after-school activities.

- Masks are required for students, staff, and drivers on any form of transportation.
- Mask breaks will be provided as needed throughout the day. Masks may be removed when actively eating or drinking.
- Reusable and disposable masks are available through the nurses.
- Staff may remove masks when working alone in their rooms with the door closed.
- Masks are not required in outdoor settings for staff or students.

**Distancing:** The goal is to be physically distanced whenever possible, as long as it does not impede the district from offering full-time, in-person instruction for all students.

**Personal Hygiene:** We will continue to focus on and encourage frequent hand washing, hand sanitizing, minimal sharing of supplies and materials, and proper sneeze and cough etiquette.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting:** High touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the school day. If a building has someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the space will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

**Ventilation:** Increasing outside air circulation will continue to be done by keeping doors and windows open, when possible and using the portable fans located in each classroom. Outdoor spaces will be used for learning as much as possible (Outdoor classrooms, and tents will be set up at each school during the fall and spring).

**Vaccinations:** The district will continue to promote vaccines and will make every effort to offer additional clinics for approved age groups. We will continue to follow the CDC and MDOE updates and guidelines.

**Pooled Testing:** Pooled testing is optional for students and staff but highly recommended. The district anticipates starting pooled testing in September. Students and staff who participate in pooled testing **will not need to be quarantined from school** if they are a close contact of a positive case. Being able to stay physically present in school and in extracurricular activities is something we want for all students and staff this year. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff are encouraged to sign up for this program. More information will be forthcoming.

The School Committee appreciated the public input that was received regarding indoor masking. The plan will be revisited regularly by the administration and the School Committee will discuss the plan in October and throughout the rest of the school year.

Again, thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we maneuver through a pandemic without any prior guidelines. We will continue to update you when any significant changes occur. Please feel free to contact your child's administrator for any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Terry L. Wood  
Superintendent of Schools