



Easton School Department

Office of the Superintendent



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Superintendent of Schools
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September 10, 2021

Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

This letter is to inform you that there is an outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at Easton School Department's Elementary School. An outbreak means that there are three or more cases of COVID-19 within a 14-day period that are epidemiologically linked. At the time of this letter's release there are 2 positive cases that are epidemiologically linked to the positive case that was made public on September 9, 2021. I will inform you should more individuals test positive.

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
- Pressure or Pain in the Chest
- Blue/Gray-Tinged Skin/Lips/Nail Beds
- Inability to Wake or Stay Awake

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.

Maine DOE or a school representative will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive. Close contacts who are unvaccinated will be asked to quarantine from school for 10-full-days from last exposure to the positive individual. All unvaccinated close contacts will be asked to quarantine from non-school activities as well. A negative test result does not get an individual out of quarantine.

At this point Easton School Department has completed contact tracing, and all close contacts have been informed of their exposure and quarantine status. Due to the high number of close contacts I closed Easton Elementary School at 12:30 today, and **all Elementary school classes will participate in their classes remotely until Harvest Break.**

Maine CDC recommends prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper hand-washing 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% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others. Wear a cloth face covering in public indoor spaces, especially if you are not vaccinated. Get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you. When in public, avoid social distances of less than 6 feet and direct physical contact.

Questions for the school can be directed at Mark Stanley, Superintendent of Schools or Kim Warren, School Nurse at 488-7700. 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.

Sincerely,

Mark Stanley, Superintendent of Schools