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51 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538

September 22, 2021

Dear Boothbay Region Elementary School Staff, Students and Families,

This letter is to inform you that there is an outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at BRES. An outbreak means that there are three or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 within a 14-day period that are not epidemiologically linked. We are continuing to follow Maine CDC recommendations and our locally adopted COVID-19 precaution procedures. Our administrative team, facilities director, and school nurse are in close contact and monitoring the situation closely. Outbreak status also means that we have been assigned a specific contact person at the Maine CDC who will work directly with us as we continue to monitor the situation and make decisions as we move forward. If you or your child are identified as close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 you will be contacted directly by the school and or the Maine CDC.

The layers of protection currently in place include improved ventilation, social distancing, universal masking indoors, and increased sanitizing to name a few. At our team meeting this morning, we decided to shift one of the part-time night-time custodians to come in earlier to assist with sanitizing high traffic areas. Last year the district adopted the recommendations for outbreak status sanitizing and that is the level of prevention we have continued to operate to start this school year. I also want to publicly recognize that the school staff has also been working tirelessly to refine and reteach procedures designed to keep students and staff as safe as possible. We are also in the process of implementing voluntary pooled testing which is another powerful tool and layer of protection for students and staff regardless of vaccination status. More information and permission slips regarding this process will be out shortly.

I would like to remind everyone of the importance of at home symptom checks. If you or your child are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 please remain home, contact the school, and call your primary care physician for further advice on how to proceed. We know how challenging this struggle with COVID-19 has been and continues to be but we will get through this by continuing to work closely together. If you have questions for the school you may contact Principal Kurr at 633-5097 and you are welcome to contact me directly at 633-2874 should you have any questions about the district response to COVID-19. I've included general information provided by the CDC on the next page. Other resources for parents and staff include:

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. More information can also be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus. Please know that student and staff safety remain our top priority and that we will keep you informed out of an abundance of caution regarding COVID-19 and its impact on our school community. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Robert Kahler,
Superintendent of Schools

AOS 98 | ROCKY CHANNELS SCHOOL SYSTEM

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From the Maine CDC:

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
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea
- confusion
- pressure or pain in the chest
- blue/gray-tinged skin/lips/nail beds

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 and not a pooled testing participant 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 (More information to come regarding those who elect to be involved in pooled testing).

Maine CDC recommends prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper handwashing 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 percent 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. Cloth face coverings are recommended in schools and childcare settings for people over 5 years of age. 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.

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