

AOS 47
Airline, Dedham and Orrington School Departments



Dear Dedham Families & Staff,

09/24/2021

This letter is to inform you that an individual associated with the Dedham School recently tested positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon notification, administration has been working with the school nurse and has initiated our response plan. We have communicated with both the Maine CDC and the Maine DOE as well as following the Standard Operation and Procedures ([SOP](#)) for investigation of COVID19 in PK-12 Schools.

A school representative will have contacted you directly if your child is identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive. Where the school is utilizing Universal Masking, classroom close contacts will continue to be able to attend school, but will need to quarantine from after school and community activities for 10 days from the last exposure to the positive individual. A negative test result does not allow an individual not to quarantine. Here is information on what it means to [be in quarantine](#). A student who is in quarantine is eligible for lunch, please call 843-6498 before 9:00 if you are interested.

I am very appreciative that families continue to screen our students before they come to school. Here is a link to our updated [Pre-Screening Tool](#). If someone in the household is getting tested please consider keeping your student(s) home until the results are in and call to let our nurse know that is why they are out. Call a health care provider if symptoms start and stay home if you are sick. 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. Please keep in mind that many things can cause respiratory illness. Signs and symptoms may include:

• fever or chills • new loss of taste or smell • cough • sore throat • shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • congestion or runny nose • fatigue • nausea or vomiting • muscle or body aches • diarrhea • headache • pressure or pain in the chest • blue/gray-tinged skin/lips/nail beds • inability to wake or stay awake

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The 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. 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.

In accordance with privacy guidelines, no additional information regarding the individual who tested positive can be shared. We will continue to monitor the situation and will notify you if there are any changes. Questions for the school can be directed to the main office by calling 843-6498. 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 [Maine CDC Coronavirus Updates](#).

Thank you to all of our families, staff and students for your continued support and efforts as we navigate the 2021-22 school year and impact of COVID-19. We appreciate all of your efforts to follow the CDC Guidelines while supporting education, it has allowed us to continue to keep our students in school!

Sincerely,

James CR Stoneton II

Superintendent of Schools

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