

AOS 47

Airline, Dedham and Orrington School Departments



Dear Dedham Staff, Students, and Families

10/15/2021

We have received notice from the Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC) that the Dedham School has been identified as having an official COVID-19 outbreak. This MCDC designation means at least three people associated with the school have had a case over a fourteen day time period. We have been notified of seven total positive cases during that time span. A school representative would have contacted you directly if your child was identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive and all contact tracing has been done.. Our total number of people required to quarantine due to being in close contact is lower than it would have been last year thanks to vaccination and universal masking rules in place this year. Masking doesn't eliminate all quarantining, but it has reduced it at every school in AOS 47. Here is information on what it means to [be in quarantine](#). A student who is in quarantine is eligible for school meals, please call 843-6498 before 9:00 daily if you are interested.

Outbreak status is removed once we have gone 28 days without a positive case. We have begun collecting the names of those who wish to participate in pool testing. If you are interested in having your child participate in pooled testing, please follow the instructions below:

Pooled Testing:

First, [click here](https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent) (<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>).

Then, enter this access code: DED2021

Finally, enter your child's information, and you're done!

While we have seen school districts around the state going remote for days to stop the spread of this Delta variant, Dedham Elementary continues to remain open for in-person education at this time. I will update you should anything change. We continue to follow CDC guidelines to ensure that we educate as many students as possible safely and in-person at Dedham. Please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms with our [Pre-Screening Tool](#). Call a health care provider if symptoms start. It is important that you call a healthcare facility before you show up in person. Information may be found at [Maine CDC Coronavirus Updates](#).

Superintendent of Schools
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207-825-3364
207-825-3397 Fax

Airline School
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Aurora, Maine 04408
207-584-3012
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Dedham School
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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 • confusion • 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 routine vaccinations.

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 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.

Sincerely,

James CR Stonetson II

Superintendent of Schools

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