



Easton School Department

Office of the Superintendent



Mark Stanley
Superintendent of Schools
mark.stanley@eastonschools.org

33 Bangor Road
Easton, ME 04740
(207) 488-7700 ext. 105

November 12, 2021

Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

This letter is to inform you that 5 individuals associated with Easton School Department, 4 at the Elementary School and 1 at the Jr/Sr High School recently tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). We are informing you out of an abundance of caution. Please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. Stay home if you are sick or are experiencing any listed symptoms.

We have been in constant communication with the CDC regarding this recent outbreak at the Elementary School. They remain confident and consistent in their guidance for us; that though we are in “outbreak” status, at this time we are not dealing with school-based transmission, but transmission that is occurring outside the school and brought in during the school day. This allows us to narrow our parameters for quarantining students, and keep as many students in school as safely as possible. As we continue to work through this situation, I ask that if your student is sick with the symptoms listed below to please keep them home and contact our school nurse.

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. Because of the limited number of staff close contacts in quarantine we will continue to keep the schools open for in-person instruction. Also, because of our mask mandate and the CDC's "classroom mask exemption" we are able to allow many of our close contacts that would have been placed in quarantine to continue with live in-person instruction.

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