

AOS 47
Airline, Dedham and Orrington School Departments



Dear Airline, Dedham and Orrington Families,

8/6/2021

I hope that all of you have had an opportunity to enjoy your summer and found time to relax with your family! As we get closer to starting school, many people are wondering what school will “look” like for the 2021-2022 school year. In AOS 47 we are planning to start school in a more customary manner and have 100% of our students for in-person learning.

We are excited to have all of our students in our classrooms 5 days a week. Guidance has changed frequently over the course of the summer and continues to evolve rapidly, as it did last year. We will adjust as needed and communicate the changes as quickly as possible. Please know that our students’ physical and social/emotional well-being while providing in-person instruction is our highest priority. The current CDC requirements and recommendations for schools follow this letter. AOS 47 will enforce the requirements and support the recommendations.

We are planning on and hoping for traditional drop off procedures in the morning, a regular school-day schedule for our students, an in-person open house, after school activities and sports for middle school. Please see our [2021-22 Levels of Instruction](#) in anticipation of changes that may occur during the school year (we are currently a level 3.5). You will note that there is not a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. We know how important it is to have staff and students together for in-person learning and socialization. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. You will hear from me again if future regulations impact our ability to provide in-person instruction.

Sincerely,

James Stoneton II, Superintendent of Schools

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The Maine Department of Education has shared that we need to adhere to the US CDC's [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#). The federal guidance currently replaces the Maine DOE Framework used last year. We will adhere to all CDC requirements.

MASKS

Currently, the US CDC **requires all people on public or private school-provided transport, including buses and vans, wear a mask. This means students and staff must wear a face mask while on AOS 47 buses and vans.** Face masks are not currently required in schools but are **recommended**. When school starts, we will be asking parents to let us know if they want their child(ren) to wear a face mask.

COVID TESTING

Opt-in pooled testing will be offered to all staff and students following Maine Department of Education's (DOE's) procedures and guidelines. This new tool helps schools identify infected people (including those without symptoms) so steps can be quickly taken to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. Consistent with legal requirements and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), **parental consent will be obtained prior to any COVID testing.**

VACCINATIONS

CDC Guidance encourages all eligible students (currently students age 12 or older) and all staff to be fully vaccinated. The Maine DOE/Maine CDC will be requiring each district to report the percent of staff members fully vaccinated.

COVID RESPONSE PROTOCOL for POSITIVE CASES

AOS 47 will continue to follow state guidelines for dealing with a COVID positive case and will follow the state SOP.

SYMPTOM CHECK PROTOCOL

Symptom checks must be conducted daily before school for all students and staff. Students and staff showing symptoms are required to stay home.

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