

Sanford School Department
Safe Return to School and Continuity of Instruction Plan
Update for School Committee Meeting
September 20, 2021

- I. Review metrics from York County Emergency Management Agency (See attached)
- II. Sanford School Department Data
- III. Review of Meeting w/ CDC regarding school outbreaks
 - a. Impact on families
 - b. Monitoring school transmission
- IV. Thoughts from Dr. Thibodeau (York Hospital)

“The metrics she looks at to guide her decisions are our positivity rate and hospital capacity:

 - Positivity rate: Currently York county is 5.7% (federal CDC and ME CDC) therefore masking is recommended in indoor public places for all regardless of vaccination status. Moreover, this rate has been steadily climbing since mid July of ~1% and much higher than the start of last school year at 2%. Lacking weekend data does not affect this it is a 7 or 14 d average. This number is likely lower than the actual number now that we have home tests available and many not reported, Moreover, pooled testing from schools and colleges make the denominator higher.
 - Hospitalization: Not only should we look at new hospitalized patients but what is the capacity of the ICU, vents, (and also important, which is not reported, is staff). Given delta is more severe causing higher rates of hospitalization, these patients are sicker and staying in our hospitals longer. Some of the larger hospitals have started to cancel some elective procedure to accommodate this surge.

She understands some want a timeline for when mask requirements will be lifted but believes we need to see positivity rates at least trending down for a few weeks/months and hospitals not stretched so thin. We cannot predict when that will be as we cannot predict much with this pandemic. Lastly, children <12 may be eligible for vaccination by November (we should be seeing the data and FDA application in the next few weeks); this is another standard she would look at from the equity standpoint.

She strongly recommends we continue to require universal masking for all K-12 students and staff and reassess every 4 weeks at the minimum interval.
- V. Vaccination Clinic – We are scheduled to hold a vaccination clinic at SMS for the first dose on Wednesday, Sept. 22nd (2nd dose on Oct. 13th) and SHS for the first dose this

Friday, Sept. 24th from 9 AM – 1:00 PM for students and staff (2nd dose on Oct. 15th). We have received a small number of consent forms.

- VII. Last Thursday, President Biden announced that he has directed the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to develop a rule requiring all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative COVID-19 test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work. OSHA will issue an Emergency Temporary Standard to implement this requirement.

While this Emergency Temporary Standard applies to private employers nationwide, the Maine Department of Labor also sought clarification from OSHA about the rule's applicability to public employers because, under longstanding State law and a 2015 agreement with the Federal government known as a "state plan," Maine is required to adopt and enforce for public employers all of OSHA's occupational safety and health standards. Maine is one of 26 states and two territories to have a "state plan" agreement with the Federal government.

OSHA confirmed with the Maine Department of Labor that the forthcoming Emergency Temporary Standard will apply to public sector employers with 100 or more employees in Maine and the 25 other states and two territories with a state OSHA plan. In Maine, these public entities include: state, county, and local governments, public school systems, the University of Maine

System, the Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Turnpike Authority, and sewer and water districts. The Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health is required to adopt and enforce OSHA's forthcoming rule for public employers within 30 days of the rule's release. OSHA's standards are considered minimum requirements, so states may implement more rigorous standards but cannot implement less rigorous standards than those set out by OSHA.

OSHA has yet to release its Emergency Temporary Standard, so the timeframe and details of its implementation are unknown at this time. However, given the importance of this information and its impact on public sector employees, we wanted to share this information with you today. We look forward to seeing the final Emergency Temporary Standard when it is released by OSHA and will continue to communicate with you as more information becomes available from the Federal government.

VIII.