



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

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February 28, 2022

Memo to Board: Item #5

Superintendent recommendation:

I recommend that our health and safety protocols remain in line with the Maine Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and as such masking becomes optional beginning Monday, March 7, 2022.

Rationale:

It has become clear that the number of cases in our region has continued to decline and Kennebec County has moved into a “yellow” designation. Also important to note is the following information:

- RSU #38 has pool testing instituted in all buildings.
- Vaccines for those that want them are readily available.
- We continue to practice good hand hygiene and social distancing as appropriate.
- Students and staff with a documented medical condition can receive appropriate accommodations.
- Any student or staff member wanting to wear a mask will be supported.

In relation to the recommendation please note the following:

- ❖ Masking optional will include transportation.
- ❖ Our Nurse Offices/Health Clinics will require students to wear a mask when seeking medical care or showing symptoms.
- ❖ Positive students will continue to wear a mask on days 6 thru 10 upon their return to school per the SOP.
- ❖ Unvaccinated students and staff not participating in pool testing and exposed will continue to quarantine for 5 days per the SOP.
- ❖ Although we are not contact tracing we will follow the CDC/SOP isolation and quarantine guidelines when aware of positive cases.
- ❖ Masks (both surgical and KN95) are available in all schools.