



Western Foothills
Regional School Unit No. 10
799 Hancock Street, Suite 1
Rumford, ME 04276
Central Office 207-369-5560
Fax 207-562-7059

Buckfield, Hanover, Hartford, Mexico, Roxbury, Rumford, Sumner

Deborah Alden
Superintendent of Schools

Leanne Condon,
Assistant Superintendent

Leah Kaulback
Business Manager

April 11, 2022

RE: DISCONTINUING POOLED TESTING in RSU 10

Hi RSU 10 Community,

Since last fall RSU 10 has been participating in/offering pooled testing for COVID for those interested. This has been a tool for monitoring our immediate school community. We have found it to be a good way to know just how present COVID in our schools.

Since the end of January we have noticed the number of samples that came back positive became fewer week to week. We started to see challenges in finding who in the pool was positive when we conducted follow up individual tests. There was concern that when we returned from February break - there may be an uptick in positives because people may have traveled or been around others. Our school-based pooled testing data did not show evidence of an uptick. In fact, since we have returned from February break we have continued a downward trend and have been in the single digits weekly through March with positive pools even with masks being optional. Over the last several weeks we have had many schools that have no positive pools.

We have been contemplating the criteria in which we would stop conducting pooled testing. This does disrupt the school day and requires a lot of work for nurses and the staff who assist them. We felt it responsible to continue until April vacation so we could see how the test results would go with masks being optional. We have been monitoring the community indicators and Oxford County, as well as all others in Maine, are in low transmission status **After monitoring the trend in data from multiple inputs we have decided to discontinue pooled testing after this week.**

I want to thank all the staff throughout RSU 10 for their work that continues to keep our schools healthy and safe places to work and learn. Your efforts to mitigate, monitor, track, and follow through with expectations truly made, and still make, a difference.

Sincerely,

Deb