

James Stoneton II, Superintendent of Schools
AOS #47 Airline/Dedham/Orrington School Departments
19 School Street Orrington, Maine 04474
(207) 825-3364

Dear Airline, Dedham and Orrington Families,

4/8/2020

The following message has been sent out by the Maine Commissioner of Education:

*As you ... know, US CDC guidance recommends an 8 to 20 week timeframe for avoiding large group/in-person instruction once there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19. **I am recommending, with the support of the Governor, that [Maine schools] ... replace classroom/group instruction with remote/distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.***

This announcement means that, together with other districts across Maine, the AOS 47 School Departments will continue with our current status for the remainder of this school year. This includes extending our homebound learning plan, with teachers providing assignments and times to connect so their students can receive encouragement, ask questions, and receive help and support. Given the uniqueness of our district, further school specific updates will be forthcoming from your school. We will observe our regularly scheduled April vacation from 4/20/2020 through 4/24/2020.

Students in good standing will move to the next grade level for the 2020-2021 school year as they normally would. We will also develop a plan to honor our fabulous 2020 8th grade graduates. We will continue to offer our breakfast/lunch program and encourage anyone who would like to participate to contact the AOS 47 Central Office, at 207- 825-3364.

If you are concerned with how your child is doing emotionally you can contact the [NAMI MAINE HELPLINE](https://www.namimaine.org). Their number is 800-464-5767, press 1 (helpline@namimaine.org). Here is a link to the [Department of Health & Human Services \(DHHS\)](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs) and additional hotline numbers. Their direct number is (207)287-3703. You can also use the number 2-1-1 to get general information regarding the Coronavirus outbreak in Maine.

I have said it before, but it is worth repeating. We will get through this by being there for one another, by staying focused and using the tools of unity and compassion to remain principled and resolute in this moment. We will eventually return to our students coming to school, and we will have learned much that will help us to be even better as a system. In the meantime, we continue to rely on one another as a community. Thank you all for your continued support throughout this pandemic, we are stronger together.

Sincerely,

James Stoneton II