Matt Nelson Superintendent **Sanford School Department**

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Paula Cote, Chair Amy Sevigny, Vice-Chair Jennifer Davie Jonathan Mapes John Roux

May 12, 2022

Dear Students, Staff & Families,

The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) recently announced an end to the State's pooled testing program. Pooled testing was originally designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but with the rapid incubation period of the new BA.2 variant, pooled testing is no longer effective in identify cases before they have already spread to others. As a result, the week of May 9th will be the last week of pooled testing in Sanford Schools.

Aa an alternative to pooled testing, the MDOE and Maine CDC are recommending frequent rapid testing. To assist with this, the MDOE is providing up to six rapid tests for each student and staff member across the state. Our School District has begun receiving these rapid tests and are in the process of determining the best way to distribute them to all members of our school community.

As an added measure, please continue to monitor yourself and student(s) for signs and symptoms. If symptoms start, call a health care provider, follow the safety precautions that are in place and stay home if sick. Together our preventive steps can protect the health of our students, school personnel, and the Sanford community.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson Superintendent