

Message from the Superintendent

Another school year is upon us, and as always we are committed to keeping the academic success of our students, as well as the health and safety of all members of our community, our ultimate goal and daily focus. The Administrative Team at Easton School Department and myself are proud to present the following 2021-2022 Safe Return to School plan based on the US CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools. Please note that guidance and requirements from the US CDC, Maine CDC and Maine Department of Education may change at any time, and the Administrative Team may need to change local health and safety requirements based on the constant assessing of needs of the school department. As always, you will be informed of those changes if/when they happen.

I thank you for the continued support of your school, and your trust and confidence that we will safely provide your children with a top education. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns you have upon reading this document and throughout the school year.

Yours in Education,
Mark Stanley, Superintendent of Schools

Remote Instruction

Remote instruction will no longer be an option for the general student body. Alternative arrangements, which may include remote instruction, will be made between students, families, administrators and teachers in situations where students are placed in isolation due to COVID-19 on a case-by-case basis.

Promoting Vaccination

Easton School Department will continue to work with local health care providers to provide/facilitate vaccine distribution. Community members who need help accessing a vaccine appointment may contact the school at their convenience. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, click [here](#).

Consistent and Correct Mask Use

Per US and Maine CDC guidelines, Easton School Department's masking procedure will change to mask optional inside the buildings and on the buses beginning March 8, 2022. Easton School Department will implement the following guidance:

- **School Outbreak:** in the event that the Maine CDC places Easton School Department in outbreak status, defined as 15% or more of either students or staff absent due to COVID-19, the school department will enforce a mask mandate for 5 days and until the absenteeism rate declines to less than 15%.

Physical Distancing

Easton School Department will, when possible, maintain 3 feet of distance between individuals inside the school. In the rare case that 3 feet is impossible, the students will be spaced to the greatest extent allowable within their typical instructional space. Instruction held outside is encouraged when appropriate.

Screening Testing (Updated 5/16/22)

Easton School Department has discontinued the State Pooled Testing Service.

Ventilation/Air Quality

Each classroom is equipped with:

- [Friedrich ZHP14DA Dual Hose Air Conditioner](#)
- Lasko WAT Fan/Ionizer
- [Aerus ActivePure Air Purifier](#)

Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette

Easton School Department will monitor and reinforce hand washing and respiratory etiquette, and provide adequate hand washing supplies. This includes:

- Teaching and reinforcing hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently and assist young children with hand washing.
- If hand washing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

Symptomatic Students/Staying Home When Sick/Testing (Updated 5/16/22)

Students who are in school and report feeling symptoms of COVID-19 will be given a Rapid Antigen BinaxNow test on site. (With consent) Should the student test negative, they may return to school after 24 hours free of symptoms. Students and staff should stay home when displaying symptoms of any infectious disease. Individuals who are home due to symptoms of COVID-19 will need to receive a negative test, or isolate. **The school now accepts positive or negative at-home test results.** It is important to communicate with the school nurse and PCP regarding the need for a COVID-19 test. If household members of students/staff test positive for COVID-19, we encourage families to contact the school nurse and allow for daily antigen testing of the attending student/staff up to 2 days after the end of the positive family member's isolation. For a list of COVID-19 symptoms, click [here](#).

Contact Tracing/Isolation/Quarantine

Easton School Department will collaborate with state and local health departments to confidentially provide information regarding people diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to aid in informing students/staff of their need to isolate. Easton School Department is suspending all contact tracing, and will no longer announce weekly COVID-19 positive numbers. Should the Maine CDC declare a school in outbreak status, Easton School Department will disclose that information to the community immediately. Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate for 5 days and be 24 hours fever free

and symptoms improving prior to returning to school. Per the Maine CDC, students/staff who return from isolation will need to wear a well-fitting mask inside for days 6-10. Information on isolation/quarantine can be found [here](#).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Easton Elementary and Easton Junior/Senior High School will be cleaned daily per usual. High touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly. A space that has held a student or staff that tested positive for COVID-19 will be disinfected within 24 hours.

Disabilities and Other Health Care Needs

Easton School Department remains committed to providing accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students, teachers, and staff with disabilities or other health care needs when implementing COVID-19 protocols by:

- Working with families to better understand the individual needs of students with disabilities.
- Remaining accessible for students with disabilities.
- Adjusting strategies as needed.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome, and do not require a mask. All visitors must check in at the front office upon arrival.

Sports and Other Extracurricular Activities

Interscholastic athletics will adhere to any and all Maine Principals Association requirements, and Aroostook League Guidelines, as they become available.

Assigned Seating

Easton School Department no longer requires assigned seating on buses, in classrooms or cafeteria.

Contact

Please contact the school with any questions or comments you have:

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