



**Western Foothills
Regional School Unit No. 10**
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Buckfield, Hanover, Hartford, Mexico, Roxbury, Rumford, Sumner

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Business Manager

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Dear Students, Staff, Parents and Families,

At noon today Oxford County was designated “Yellow” based on the increase in number of Covid-19 cases over the last two weeks. What does this mean for our schools?

In the Mountain Valley Region, four of our schools in RSU 10 have gone to fully-remote learning as of September 28, 2020. This decision will be reviewed at the October 13, 2020 Board Meeting.

In the Nezinscot Region, which is also in Oxford county, we no longer can have any co-curricular events or athletic practices. Districts in a Yellow designation are urged to consider a hybrid model to reduce the number of students together. Examples of Dept. of Education hybrid models are explained below. Buckfield Junior Senior High School currently follows #2 and Hartford-Sumner Elementary School follows #3. Therefore, we believe we can continue to keep our students and staff safe in these schools.

Examples of hybrid models include:

1. Providing for grades PK-5 or PK-8, utilizing larger spaces or spreading out into other buildings to reduce crowd sizes and to increase capacity for physical distancing. Older students would be provided with education continuity through remote learning.
2. Engaging all students PK-12 in an alternating schedule that includes remote learning and in-person instruction. Some students are in school while others learn remotely, and then they transition back and forth between these two modalities. Schools and SAUs planning to offer rotating schedules should develop plans to support students with disabilities.
3. Offering students and families the option to choose remote learning for an agreed-upon period of time (for a quarter or semester, for example). This plan reduces crowd sizes and expands capacity for physical distancing, with reduced numbers of students in the building.
4. Customized hybrid models that support students and teachers who are at high risk - for example, synchronous lessons could be provided by a teacher who uses a platform such as Zoom to teach lessons while a substitute, volunteer, or other “teacher avatar” supports classroom management and logistics. Students in the classroom and students learning remotely could all participate with a teacher who is leading activities remotely.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Please remember as parents, you have the option of having your child go to fully-remote instruction. Also, we will be waiting until at least the time Oxford County returns to “Green” until we consider changes for students into our “In-Person” instruction cohorts.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child’s school.

Thank you,

Deb Alden