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## Regional School Unit 57

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*RSU 57 prepares respectful, responsible and creative thinkers for success in the global community.*

September 30, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

In response to concerns about the potential for COVID-19 exposure among our school communities, we are partnering with the State of Maine, Department of Health and Human Services, to offer COVID-19 testing for students and staff members who have been identified as close contacts of individuals with confirmed COVID-19. This testing will be conducted at Massabesic Middle School (large Parking Lot) on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Only identified close contacts associated with positive cases at MMS and WES as of September 30th will be eligible for testing at this time.**

Additional details are as follows:

- This testing will be provided by the COVID-19 Mobile Response Team (Northern Light Health).
- This will be a “drive thru” experience; participants will remain in their vehicles throughout the testing process.
- This is a nasal swab test collected by a Registered Nurse.
- The tests will be processed at the Maine CDC Laboratory in Augusta. Results will be available in approximately 3 days.
- Each participant must sign a consent for testing. You can print the [Consent Form](#) or access one of the hard copies that will be available on site. Results will be reported to the school. The school will e-mail individuals with negative test results and call individuals with positive test results.
- Please leave pets at home - for the safety of those conducting testing
- Please have all passengers masked, per CDC guidelines
- Please bring a pen with you to the testing site if you need to complete the Consent Form on site.

We strongly recommend that every student and staff member identified as a close contact participate (or obtain testing through their own health care provider). Achieving the highest possible rate of testing of all school community members will help make decisions about returning to in-classroom learning. Testing can also help to identify positive, contagious individuals who do not have any symptoms. It is also important to understand that individuals who test negative could still become positive; therefore, all close contacts should still complete a 14-day quarantine. All those who test negative should still practice social distancing, masking and not participate in gatherings.

In order to prevent long waits, we are asking individuals to go to the testing center during the time frames corresponding with their last name. The testing schedule is as follows:

- **Last Name starting with A-L:**
  - Thursday, October 1, 2020: 3:00 PM – 4:30PM
  - Saturday, October 3, 2020: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
- **Last Name starting with M-Z:**
  - Thursday, October 1, 2020: 4:30PM – 6:00PM
  - Saturday, October 3, 2020: 9:00AM – 10:00AM

To participate, please consider the following:

- This testing is for students and staff of these facilities only identified as close contacts. It is not for parents, family members or the broader community.
- Testing is subject to participant or parental consent.
- Participants should expect average wait times of 30 minutes.
- Participants should remain in their vehicles at all times.
- Masks are mandatory; vehicle windows should remain closed until prompted.

**Please note students may participate without the consenting adult present but must provide a signed consent form. When possible, parents are encouraged to accompany their student(s) to the testing appointment. Please bring the consent form linked above, signed at the time of testing. Hard copies will be made available for you on site should you not be able to print them in advance of testing, but will need to be signed in advance in the event that a parent is not accompanying their student(s).**

**Please note: Individuals with negative results should expect communications by mail. Any positive results should expect communication from both the School and the CDC.**

For specific questions about the testing process, help with registration, or to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please email the provider at [info@CovidTestForME.com](mailto:info@CovidTestForME.com) or leave a message at 1-800-216-4804. Expect a prompt response.

Sincerely,

Larry Malone, Superintendent of Schools