

Regional School Unit #2

Dresden – Farmingdale – Hallowell – Monmouth – Richmond

Tonya Arnold, Superintendent of Schools

7 Reed St., Hallowell, Maine 04347

October 8, 2020

RE: Contact Tracing Situation

Dear Monmouth Memorial Team,

We received information today that the CDC is working on a contact tracing situation that involves one positive case at the middle school level.

At this moment, you are deemed safe and we are taking every precaution recommended by the CDC and DOE. Along those lines, we immediately began contacting parents of students who may be considered potential close contacts so that those students could be picked up from school instead of sent home on the bus. The adults on the team for those students were informed of that plan as well. We also cancelled middle school afterschool sports and activities. This was out of an abundance of caution before deemed necessary by the CDC.

CDC assures us that with mask wearing and the other safety precautions we have in place, secondary contact (meaning being less than 6 ft away from a person who was in close contact with a different person with a positive test) is not a risk that would require quarantine or testing.

Any staff member or student deemed to be a close contact will receive detailed information and directions related to isolation, testing, quarantine, and criteria needed to be met to return to school both from our school nurse and the CDC. Those individuals will need to provide a doctor note to come to school after those criteria are met.

We understand that students should be at school, if and when it is safe to do so. Tomorrow, Friday 10/9/20, we will have MMS operate fully remote for the day while we ensure all contact tracing is complete. CDC will help us confirm the length of time that the middle school impacted team will be in full remote learning mode. We will also be verifying with the CDC whether it is safe for us to have the pre-K through 5 staff and students return in hybrid mode on Tuesday. The building will be sanitized tomorrow, and we will send you another update in the late afternoon.

These situations are stressful for everyone, but especially for those closest to the situation. Everyone must protect the privacy of others. The federal FERPA and HIPA laws require us to protect student privacy. HIPA and privacy rights of employees apply to all staff. Never tell someone else's story, especially in these situations. Please demonstrate the community compassion you do so well.

There is currently no impact on any other building within in the RSU.

Be kind, be safe, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,


Tonya Arnold
Superintendent

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