

Regional School Unit #2

Dresden – Farmingdale – Hallowell – Monmouth – Richmond

Tonya Arnold, Superintendent of Schools
7 Reed St., Hallowell, Maine 04347

October 30, 2020

RE: Contact Tracing Situation

Dear Marcia Buker Elementary Team,

We received information yesterday that the CDC is working on a contact tracing situation that involves one positive case.

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 staff and parents of students who may be considered potential close contacts.

CDC assures us that with mask wearing and the other safety precautions we have in place, secondary contact is not a risk that would require quarantine or testing. So even if you or your child were near a person who was a “close contact” with the person with a positive test, there is no risk to you.

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 the school and the CDC. We understand that the CDC conducts daily check in calls with all identified close contacts and they can provide a note of clearance if needed. These people will not return to school until cleared to do so by the CDC. Some additional students have been contacted and assigned to remote learning because the staff responsible for the majority of their instructional program are remote for quarantine purposes. Those students will be asked to return as soon as we have staffing back in place.

We believe that students should be at school, if and when it is safe to do so. The building will be sanitized a second time today in preparation for Monday.

Out of an abundance of caution, all of the school is fully remote today. Based on the limited exposure of this case, school will return to our regular hybrid schedule on Monday, November 2nd.

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 from this case on any other building within in the RSU.

Be kind, be safe, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Tonya Arnold
Superintendent

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