

## Updated Planning for the 21/22 School Year\*

### Updated RSU 9 Health and Safety Guidelines

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*The following recommendations are our 7/27/2021 recommended approach to the recent updates from Maine DOE. Consideration has been given to vaccine availability for students, data around the new COVID-19 variant strand, national outbreaks, and state and country positivity rates. We will be reviewing data consistently throughout the next several weeks and will continue to review, and then update, if needed. Recommendations are based on the Maine CDC recommendations and state and national data. Though Maine DOE has lifted some of the requirements, they are still strongly recommended by the Maine DOE.*

#### Current Health and Safety Guidelines ([7/15/21 MDOE Update](#))

- ☐ Health Screener:
  - ☐ ALL students, staff, coaches, and visitors are expected to review the [health screener](#) prior to on-site attendance at school or any RSU 9 activity or event.
    - ☐ We will expect that if symptoms are present, students, staff, or visitors will NOT attend the RSU 9 schools or any RSU 9 activity or event.
    - ☐ RSU 9 students and staff should contact their school or supervisor if they have a positive COVID-19 test or if they are considered a close contact. Students and staff should contact the Central Office at 207-778-6571 to report any positive COVID-19 cases during the month of August.
- ☐ Distancing:
  - ☐ Indoors - Distancing encouraged, especially when unmasked (snacks, lunch, etc)
  - ☐ Outdoors - There are no distancing requirements for outdoor activities or events.
- ☐ Masks: Although the Maine DOE masking requirement has been changed from a requirement to strongly recommended for those unvaccinated, we will continue to implement indoor masking ([July 1 Mask Update](#), [7/15/21 Update](#)).
  - ☐ Indoors - Masks continue to be REQUIRED indoors. All staff, students, and visitors are required to wear facemasks indoors (this includes buses and other transportation).
  - ☐ Outdoors - There are no masking requirements for outdoor activities or events.

#### Contact Tracing

We will continue to do contact tracing for staff and students attending all RSU 9 sponsored events, including educational summer programming, athletics, and other activities. The Standard Operating Procedures can be found [here](#).

## **Pooled Testing**

RSU 9 will be participating in pooled testing for the 21/22 school year. Pooled testing allows the district to quickly identify potential positive cases and avoid potential chances of transmission.

- Education:
  - Family informational nights will be available, as well as information shared.
  - Families will choose to opt-in by completing the appropriate consent form.
- Schedule:
  - Schools will coordinate with the nursing team for a schedule.
  - Testing is done 1x a week. Families and staff can opt-out of testing at any point, or choose to opt-in.
- Resources Needed
  - COVID-19 Coordinator: Proposed funding ESSER 3 (1-2 year position)
    - Oversees school testing
    - Oversees all contact tracing
    - Works with families for any COVID-19 concerns and questions
    - Assists the nurses in other duties as needed
  - Additional Resources for Pooled Testing
    - [Pooling Overview](#)

## **Vaccine Clinics**

We anticipate partnering with Franklin Community Health Network to host vaccine clinics for our students ages 12+.

## Learning Structures

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### Proposal for In-Person Learning Structure Fall 2021

- Return to pre-COVID-19 start time.
  - K-5: 9:00-3:12
  - 6-12: 7:45-2:02
- Return to traditional class sizes, with the removal of spacing requirements.
- Spacing to the greatest extent possible during meals and snacks (up to 3 feet where applicable).
- Full return of extra- and co-curricular activities and trips.
- Return to full capacity in transportation (still required to wear a mask).
- Staggered approach to field trips: Starting with trips in grades 9-12 in September and grades K-8 in October.
- Masks/Face: universal indoor masking for all staff and students in grades PreK-12th grade. Staff and students in grades 9-12 who are vaccinated have the option of wearing a face shield indoors.
  - Masks will not be required outdoors, and optional for vaccinated staff indoors, in adult-only settings.
  - Unvaccinated staff will be expected to wear masks at all times indoors.
- Vaccinated students and staff in grades 9-12 are not required to wear a mask/face shield. Nonvaccinated students and staff are expected to wear a mask/face shield. All students and staff in grades 9-12 are welcomed to wear a mask/face shield.

### Potential Remote Learning Opportunity

- Partnering with WMEC (Western Maine Educational Collaborative)
  - Criteria/factors for student participation in Western Maine Remote Academy
    - Success in the previous year
    - Health concerns/issues
  - If finalized, we will purchase remote learning seats for students in grades K-12.
  - ESSER 2 funds will be used to support this expense.

#### Sources and Resources

[RSU 9 Pooled Testing Overview](#)

[Pooled Testing Vendor](#)

[Pooled Testing Resource for Schools and Districts](#)

[July 1 Mask Update](#)

[Summer and Fall Planning for Maine PreK to 12 Schools](#)

[PK-12 and Adult Education Public Health Guidance](#)

[Standard Operating Procedures Investigating Outbreaks in K-12 Schools](#)

- Process
  - RSU 9 Nursing Team review and collaboration
  - Reviewed with RSU 9 administrative team

*\*Reminder that all health and safety guidelines are subject to change weekly based on guidance and requirements updates from Maine CDC and Maine DOE.*

*Presented to the RSU 9 Board of Directors on July 27th, 2021*

- Reviewed with EAC members
- Board Update 6/22/21
- Board Update 7/27/21