

Superintendent
Cornelia Brown PhD
Assistant Superintendent
Sue Dorris, EdD
Business Manager
Mark Conrad, CAGS

Auburn School Department

"Empowering lifelong learners to succeed in an ever changing world"

<http://www.auburnschl.edu>



60 Court Street 4th Floor
Auburn, ME 04210
Fax: 207-333-6628
Phone: 207-784-6431

December 9, 2021

Dear Families, Friends and Staff in the Auburn School Department:

We are pleased to inform you that the Auburn School Department will be hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics at all of our elementary schools. The dates of the clinics are as follows:

First Dose

Tuesday, December 14th - Fairview, East Auburn & Walton

Wednesday, December 15th - Park Avenue, Sherwood Heights & Washburn

Second Dose

Tuesday, January 11th - Fairview, East Auburn & Walton

Wednesday, January 12th - Park Avenue, Sherwood Heights & Washburn

To sign up your child for the vaccination series, please visit our Pooled Testing webpage, complete the consent form, and return it to your child's school. To facilitate clinic planning, we ask that you return the consent form by Monday, December 13th.

In addition to the vaccination clinic news, we want to remind everyone that pooled testing will not take place the week of December 20th. This is a state-level decision and not a local decision. Pooled testing will resume on January 4, 2022.

The Auburn School Department received the following information from the Maine Department of Education:

As we approach the Winter Break, we want to remind everyone that while we explored many options to provide pooled testing leading up to the break, ultimately pooled testing will be suspended. The last day for pooled testing will be Friday, December 17; it will resume on January 3. BinaxNOW antigen testing may be used to bridge the gap of pooled testing during the winter break. BinaxNOW testing may be used in accordance with the approved use of BinaxNOW testing for schools, and should not be used to test all students. Below are two approved uses that may be helpful:

One time testing of unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts—student or staff—before they begin their quarantine. This would be used if a person is not enrolled in pooled testing. Testing of quarantined individuals does not shorten or alter their quarantine status.

Twice-weekly testing of all unvaccinated students and supervising adults participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, such as performing arts and sports.

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Since pooled testing will be suspended over winter break and the BinaxNOW testing can be used to allow some extracurricular activities to occur and prevent a positive case from exposing others, any close contacts would need to follow all standard quarantine guidelines. The pooled testing quarantine exception will not apply over winter break.

Trained school staff may administer BinaxNOW testing to student athletes, coaches and referees (with permission) on two separate days during the school break. If negative, those students/staff may participate in the event. Any positive students, coaches and referees will need to isolate and not participate. Close contacts will still be identified those within 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more within 24 hours, or direct contact. Vaccinated students, coaches, and referees can continue to participate, but must monitor for symptoms.

All tests (negative/positive/indeterminate) MUST be reported through the REDCap system within 48 hours of the test date.

Steps school need to take:

Identify responsible staff (athletic director, principal, athletic trainer) for testing
Identified staff to complete training for BinaxNOW and RedCap Reporting of BinaxNOW tests conducted in school settings (Contact redcap.dhhs@maine.gov for further questions)

- Reporting Documents

Determine testing schedule for vacation week(s)

Ensure consents are on file

Ensure identified staff responsible for testing have access to the needed supplies

Contact Tracing of spectators at school events (sports, theater, concerts) is not a responsibility that schools are required to take on. Please respond to positive cases among your students and staff according to the Standard Operating Procedure. You may consider posting an announcement at events to inform the public of your expectations and limited responsibility, including language such as this:

Spectators are entering at their own risk.

- We ask that anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 not attend this function.
- Masking is required at this event.
- School staff will follow usual protocols for positive cases related to the players, officials and staff in this event.
- School or facility staff will NOT be responsible for contact tracing or public notification if a positive case is identified in the stands.

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As always, our School Public Health Response Team nurses are available to school staff over the winter break. Hotline Hours Weekdays 12/24-12/31 10am-4pm. Weekends 10am-2pm. 624-6717

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to meet the needs of our students, staff, and families.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Brown

Cornelia Brown PhD
Superintendent of Schools