

Maine School Administrative District No. 11

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Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools

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Angela Hardy
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

December 2, 2020

Dear Staff, Students, and Families/Caregivers:

The COVID virus continues to impact students and staff in MSAD 11. Since yesterday's letter, we have had additional students who have tested positive for the Coronavirus-19 Disease. This means we have more than 245 students and 40 staff, including those detailed in yesterday's letter, who will need to quarantine for 14 days. The three schools impacted include: Gardiner Area High School, River View Community School, and Pittston Randolph Consolidated School.

As a result of the quarantining measures, we are not able to effectively hold in-person instruction due to a shortage of in-school staff at these three schools. As a result, we will need to operate in 'Red' with live instruction. The time frames vary slightly by school.

- Gardiner Area High School, [red learning schedule](#): Thursday, December 3 - Friday, December 11

On Thursday, December 3, our elementary schools will have learning posted in Seesaw or Google Classroom and will hold office hours as they do on Wednesdays. On Friday, live instruction will begin following the [red learning schedule for K-5](#).

- Pittston Randolph Consolidated School: Thursday, December 3 - Monday, December 7
- River View Community School: Thursday, December 3 - Tuesday, December 15

At this time, Helen Thompson School and Laura E. Richards School will remain in our 'Yellow' hybrid learning model. Cohort B students will have in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday of this week and Cohort A students will have in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Students and staff should monitor for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. Stay home if you are sick.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. It can be more severe in adults 60 years and older and in those with underlying conditions. The virus mainly spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and an uninfected person breathes in the virus. Signs and symptoms include:

- fever or chills
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- muscle or body aches
- new loss of taste or smell
- congestion or runny nose
- diarrhea
- cough
- fatigue
- headache
- sore throat
- nausea or vomiting

Please keep in mind that many things can cause respiratory illness, so students and staff should be up-to-date on influenza and routine vaccinations.

A school representative will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the positive individual. If you are not contacted, you do not need to quarantine.

A negative test result does not get an individual out of quarantine. Maine CDC recommends prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper handwashing with soap and warm water, which is especially important after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. When soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Questions can be directed to the school nurse in your child's school. For general COVID-19 questions, dial 211 (or 1-866-811-5695). You can also text your ZIP code to 898-211 or email info@211maine.org. Call a health care provider with questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools