



Millinocket School Department

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To Staff, Students Parents, and Community Members.

This letter is to inform you that we have decided to move the school department to all virtual beginning Wednesday, January 13, 2021. A decision to reopen the schools to in-person education on January 25, 2021, will be reviewed again Friday, January 22, 2021. This decision is strictly a precautionary measure. Please stay informed through our Facebook pages and website for further information. All after school activities will be canceled until after the 25.

At this time, we have been made aware of possible cases of COVID-19 in the school department, and we have been made aware of possible cases in the community. We will monitor the situation in the community closely and make any adjustments to the virtual plan.

The CDC indicates that an outbreak means that there are 3 or more cases of COVID-19 within a 14-day period that are epidemiologically linked. At this time the re-open date for in-person school is January 25, 2021. Please watch the news channels for changes in the date. Information will be posted on our web site, our Facebook pages and in other public areas.

Please monitor yourself and your child(ren) for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms appear. 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 health 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 / chills
- cough
- shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle / body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste / smell
- congestion / runny nose
- nausea / vomiting
- diarrhea
- sore throat

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.

Maine CDC and/or the school nurse will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the positive individual. It is important to note that a negative test does NOT get an individual out of quarantine.

Maine CDC recommends prevention measures to help control the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper handwashing with soap and warm water, which is especially important

after using the bathroom, before / after eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. When soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% 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 surfaces and objects using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

General questions regarding COVID-19, can be answered by calling 1-866-811-5695, you can text your zip code to 898-211, or email at info@211maine.org or by calling your primary care provider. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Questions for the school can be directed to the school your student attends or the school nurse.

Sincerely,

Francis N. Boynton
Superintendent