

RSU 9
COVID-19 Update
March 8, 2022 (Final)

Section 1: Recommendations

- **Change** from Universal Masking to **Masking Optional** (based on local data) in school and on buses
- **Continue:**
 - With **Pooled Testing** for Spring Sports
 - **To recommend** that all students and staff participate in **Pooled Testing**
 - With **increased school building and bus cleaning**
 - With **classroom spacing expectations**
 - With present **lunchroom spacing expectations for Grades PreK - 5**
 - **To open windows in classrooms and on buses** whenever the temperature makes it possible
 - **To not allow most during the day visitors into schools until May** while we continue to monitor school and county data and prepare to safely (for students and staff) bring back some of these events and visitors
- **Implement** a **5-day isolation** and quarantine period AND an additional **5-day masking** protocol for students in **grades 6-12** who test positive (*this is current practice for students in grades PreK-5 and a CDC Recommendation*)
- **No outdoor masking**
- **Grades 6-12 return to** non-COVID Breakfast and Lunch expectations
- Schools may look at and return to grade level assemblies with some spacing but avoid full-school assemblies until May 2nd
- Give the Superintendent the authority **to return to universal making at an individual school and the buses they ride** for a two-week incubation period if there is an increase/outbreak in cases deemed concerning by ME CDC
- **Contact tracing will not be reinstated.** If none of the following *exemptions* are met, only those with reported exposure outside of school will quarantine.
 - *Exemptions*
 - Covid-19 in the last 90 days
 - Fully vaccinated
 - Participates in pooled testing

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➤ **Phase Two of opening up:**

- We will come back to the Board at their April 12th meeting with a draft plan for visitors and events to begin May 2nd if our county continues in Medium or moves to Low per ME CDC and Federal CDC guidance.
 - **Inside the school, after school events** such as concerts and parent nights following the Pod format that athletics has been using
 - **Daytime school visitors** - we will continue to monitor school and county data and prepare to safely (for students and staff) bring back some of these visitors, hopefully by May 2

Section 2: County-Level Data

- Franklin County is now considered a MEDIUM County on the Federal CDC COVID-19 Tracking Website, meaning risk has reduced in our county!!!
- RSU 9 weekly positive case counts are extremely low (W/E 2/25/22 - 2 cases; W/E 3/4/22 - 13 cases).
- Franklin Memorial Hospital has shared
 - Percent of Beds COVID-19:
 - Last four weeks approximately 15% COVID-19 bed occupancy rate for the previous 2 weeks and 7% for the last two weeks
 - Positivity rate:
 - 2% for the week before last (down from 35%) and 5% this past week

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Section 3: Next Steps and Safety Protocols

- RSU 9 is securing fit-tested N95 masks for staff (based on their request)
- KN95 masks will continue to be made available for all RSU 9 staff
- KN95 masks will be made available to students (based on parent or their request)
- Principals and guidance counselors will develop talking points to review with students around the two-phase plan and the importance of showing support and respect for mask choice with classmates
- Principals and guidance counselors will visit classrooms or meet with grade levels (Grades 6-12) to discuss the two-phase plan and the importance of showing support and respect for mask choice with classmates.
- Negative student-to-student comments towards students who either choose not to wear masks or choose to continue to wear masks will not be tolerated and depending on the context will be considered either BULLYING or HARASSMENT and will receive immediate and age-appropriate consequences.

RSU 9 Data

Cumulative COVID-19 Cases

We have had **803 instances** of reported positive cases in RSU 9 from the beginning of the school year (September 7, 2021) through the week ending March 4, 2022. This number includes all students, staff, coaches, etc who have been reported positive. The chart on the next page breaks down this number by week ending and school.

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Positive Cases Reported by Week

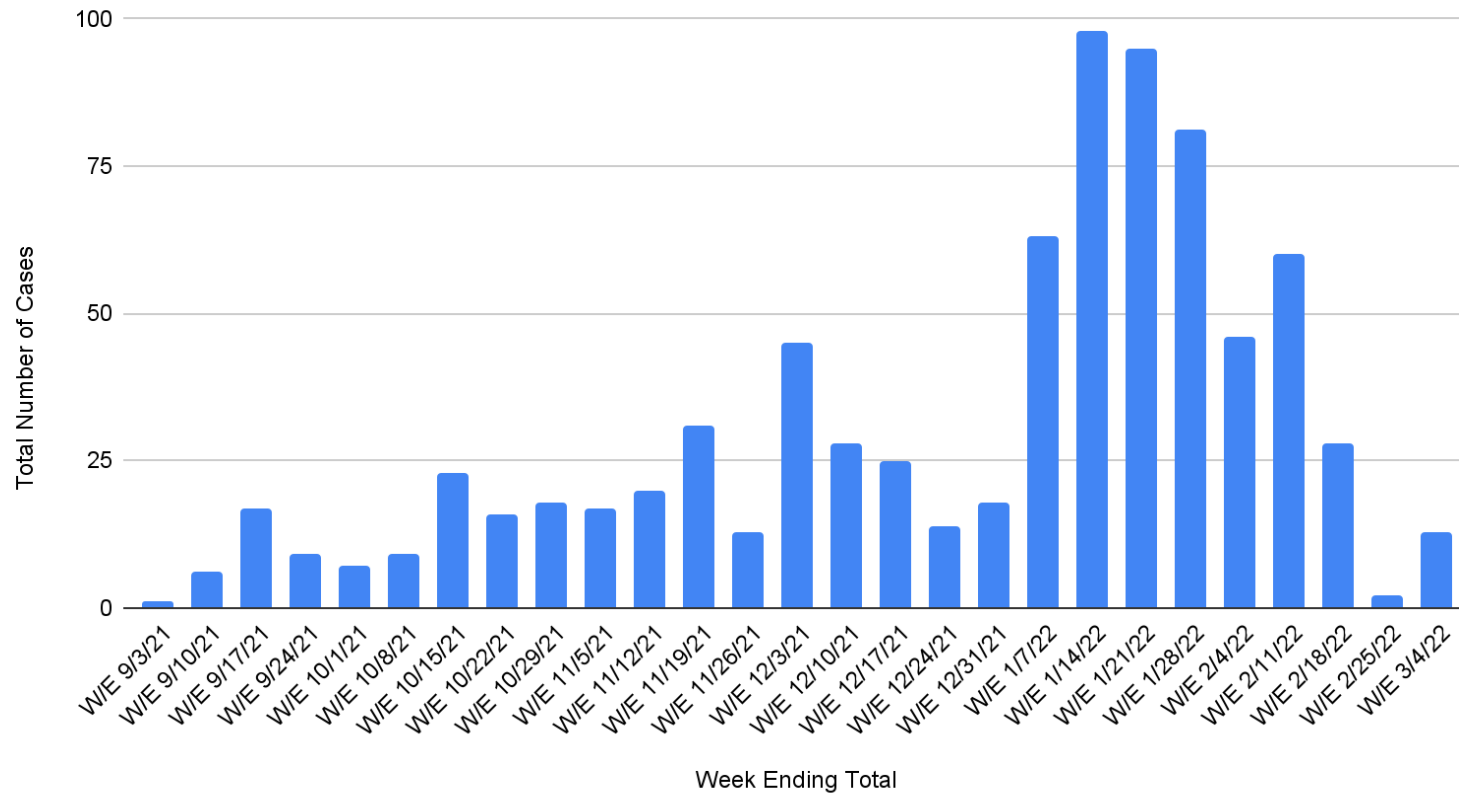
School:	Total Cumulative Cases by School	W/E 9/3/ 21	W/E 9/10 /21	W/E 9/17 /21	W/E 9/24 /21	W/E 10/1 /21	W/E 10/8 /21	W/E 10/15/ 21	W/E 10/22 /21	W/E 10/29 /21	W/E 11/5 /21	W/E 11/12 /21	W/E 11/19 /21	W/E 11/26 /21	W/E 12/3/ 21	W/E 12/10/ 21	W/E 12/17/ 21	W/E 12/24/ 21	W/E 12/31 /21	W/E 1/7/ 22	W/E 1/14 /22	W/E 1/21/ 22	W/E 1/28/ 22	W/E 2/4/ 22	W/E 2/11/ 22	W/E 2/18/ 22	W/E 2/25/ 22	W/E 3/4/ 22
AHS	56	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	3	6	0	0	1	2	7	3	9	5	3	6	1	0	0
CBS	98	0	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	4	5	6	1	4	6	1	1	2	5	7	16	9	3	7	9	1	1
CCHS	70	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	0	0	4	2	13	1	2	0	4	4	7	3	8	4	4	0	0	2
GDC	46	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	0	4	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	11	8	4	3	1	1	0	0
MBC	240	0	1	9	2	3	3	7	4	5	3	6	10	3	16	6	9	2	1	20	35	23	20	21	19	4	1	7
MBMS	139	0	0	4	3	2	1	8	3	1	4	5	2	2	3	4	4	2	5	11	17	13	25	2	14	3	0	1
WGM	143	1	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	9	8	7	2	16	13	23	8	9	8	10	0	2
RSU 9 Off-Campus	1														0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other*	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Total:	803	1	6	17	9	7	9	23	16	18	17	20	31	13	45	28	25	14	18	63	98	95	81	46	60	28	2	13

*Other - refers to cases in staff or students who work in or attend multiple locations across the district

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This chart is a graphic representation of the reported positive cases in RSU 9 from the beginning of the school year (September 7, 2021) through the week ending March 4, 2022.

Cumulative COVID-19 Cases by Week



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Additional County Data (as of 3/4/2022)

Cases per 10K	Hospitalizations	Cumulative Cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Somerset: 1,839.0● Franklin: 1,439.2● Kennebec: 1,813.2● State Average: 1720.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Somerset: 262● Franklin: 89● Kennebec: 392● Statewide: 4,392	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Somerset: 9,304● Franklin: 5,569● Kennebec: 22,136● Statewide: 230,273

Source: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/data.shtml>

Tracking the Coronavirus in “our” part of Maine

Franklin County

- **Cases** have decreased recently but are still very high.
- The number of **hospitalized Covid patients** has also fallen in the Franklin County area. **Deaths** have remained at about the same level.
- The **test positivity rate** in Franklin County is high, suggesting that cases may be undercounted.
- An average of **8 cases per day** were reported in Franklin County, a **63 percent decrease** from the average two weeks ago. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least **1 in 6** residents have been infected, a total of **5,541 reported cases**.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/franklin-maine-covid-cases.html> and date collected 3/4/22 (These #s change daily.)

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Somerset County

- **Cases** have increased recently and are extremely high.
- The number of **hospitalized Covid patients** has fallen in the Somerset County area. **Deaths** have increased.
- The **test positivity rate** in Somerset County is very high, suggesting that cases are being significantly undercounted.
- An average of **32 cases per day** were reported in Somerset County, a **34 percent increase** from the average two weeks ago. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least **1 in 6** residents have been infected, a total of **9,256 reported cases**.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/somerset-maine-covid-cases.html> and date collected 3/4/22 (These #s change daily.)

Kennebec County

- **Cases** have increased recently and are extremely high.
- The number of **hospitalized Covid patients** has fallen in the Kennebec County area. **Deaths** have increased.
- The **test positivity rate** in Kennebec County is relatively low, suggesting that testing capacity is adequate for evaluating Covid-19 spread in the area.
- An average of **117 cases per day** were reported in Kennebec County, a **72 percent increase** from the average two weeks ago. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least **1 in 6** residents have been infected, a total of **22,030 reported cases**.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/kennebec-maine-covid-cases.html> and date collected 3/4/22 (These #s change daily.)

Respectfully submitted,

Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent
Laura Columbia, Director of Curriculum