

**Mt. Blue Regional School District
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February 12, 2021

Dear RSU 9 Community,

Each year many families use school vacation weeks as opportunities for travel, but at this time such travel brings with it additional risks for contracting and transmitting COVID-19, according to the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC). It is critically important that our school communities continue to do everything we can to keep our schools safe, open, and able to provide in-person instruction to our students.

The US CDC has issued strong guidance to the American people to continue to limit our interactions and travel at this time.

We encourage our staff and families to know the risks, and the requirements for travel, and to communicate with our school leaders if you are traveling so that our schools can continue to operate safely.

In accordance with Maine's travel guidelines, any staff or student who travels within the United States to any state other than New Hampshire or Vermont (no restrictions as of 2/08/21 for these two states only), will be required to either:

- Complete a 10-day quarantine upon return to Maine and continue to monitor for signs and symptoms for an additional 4 (four) days.

OR

- Obtain and receive a negative COVID-19 antigen or PCR test result within 72 hours before their return to Maine to forgo the 10-day quarantine.
 - Travelers may be tested upon return to Maine as well, but must quarantine while they wait for test results. A negative COVID-19 antigen or PCR test result will allow the traveler to leave quarantine early.

The US CDC has also provided guidance as it relates to international travel. The current risk assessment level for COVID-19 is at 4 (four), or VERY HIGH, for nearly every country. You can view the risk levels by country [here](#).

At this time, all air passengers coming to the United States, including US citizens, are required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight back to the United States. See the US CDC's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about this requirement.

Upon return to the United States, staff and students must quarantine. Any staff or student who has traveled internationally will not be permitted inside the school building for a minimum of 7 (seven) days, even if a negative test has occurred. International travelers can return to school after they either:

- Get tested 3 to 5 (three to five) days after travel, receive a negative test result, AND stay home and self-quarantine for 7 (seven) days after travel.

OR

- Do not get tested, AND stay home and self-quarantine for 10 (ten) days after travel.

International travelers should avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

Returning to work or school after travel is not dependent on the length of time spent within the restricted states or other countries; a day visit still requires a person to quarantine and/or test as described above. All members of the household who travel must test or quarantine if over 12 months of age. Testing site information for Maine can be found [here](#).

Any person who is quarantining should stay home, and not have in-person contact with others unless there is an emergency.

Please continue to follow best practice safety protocols by wearing a mask, keeping physical distance, washing your hands, and monitoring for symptoms, as these small acts help protect our schools and neighbors.

Franklin County was designated as “green” today by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maine CDC. There will be no changes to our instructional model due to Franklin County’s return to the “green” designation. RSU 9 will continue the hybrid learning model when students return from break on Monday, February 22, which is a GOLD day.

Finally, we ask that families continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 during February break--this is for anyone living in your household. Cases can be reported by completing this [online form](#) or calling the Central Office at 207-778-6571.

Sincerely,
RSU 9 Central Office Administration and RSU 9 Nursing Team