

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHESTERVILLE – FARMINGTON – INDUSTRY – NEW SHARON – NEW VINEYARD – STARKS – TEMPLE – VIENNA – WELD – WILTON
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“Public Schools not only serve the public, they make the public.”

TO: RSU 9 Parents & Staff
FROM: Christian M. Elkington, Superintendent
RE: Proposed changes to the RSU 9 2021-2022 In-Person Instruction Plan
DATE: 1-2-2022

The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) updated their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and recommendations for COVID-19 in Maine schools this past Thursday. RSU 9 has reviewed these updates for the impact they will have on our students, staff, and families. As we have done in the past, we plan to continue to recommend to the RSU 9 School Board that we follow all of Maine DOE and Maine CDC recommendations. This includes the updated recommendations and requirements shared this past week.

We know how important these changes could be to our students, parents, and staff and so have scheduled a Special Board Mtg. for this coming Tuesday night, at 6:00 pm. At this meeting we will review the updated recommendations and will be asking our Board to adjust our plan by incorporating the following specific areas that presently differ from RSU 9's current procedures:

1. Exposure that occurs in an outdoor setting or on a school bus **will now not** constitute as close contacts.
2. Close contacts will now be asked to quarantine for **5 (five) days** from their last COVID-19 exposure from school and school activities, and then wear a mask for an additional **5 (five) days** unless at least one of the following:
 - a. Close contact is boosted (if eligible) or
 - b. Close contact is not eligible for a booster but is fully vaccinated or
 - c. The close contact participates in school pooled testing or
 - d. The school is enforcing a mandatory masking policy.
2. Staff and students who do not fall within these exemptions must quarantine if they are a close contact, regardless of the location of exposure. If the student or staff only have participated in pooled testing or are enforcing a mandatory masking policy, they must quarantine in the community, per Maine CDC quarantine guidelines, **but NOT AT SCHOOL.**

As you can see our plan is not to change our mandatory masking expectation as it will, under the new recommendations, allow most students, not to have to quarantine unless they are showing signs of COVID-19.

After our School Board makes their decision, we will send a message out to all parents and staff no later than 9:30 pm Tuesday evening with the results of the meeting. If our School Board agrees to reduce our present quarantine expectations from ten (10) to five (5) days any students currently following a ten (10) quarantine will have it reduced to five (5).

Thanks for your patience as we do our best to serve our students, staff, parents and communities!