

**RSU 9 Standard Operating Procedures Update**  
**1/12/22**

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Contact Tracing Update

- Due to the rise in community transmission, the contagiousness of the recent variant, and the shorter incubation period, the Maine CDC and Maine DOE are allowing a temporary suspension of contact tracing for schools that implement contact tracing.
  - The decision will be reviewed in February and this means RSU 9 will follow a 1-month suspension period, like most other schools in Maine.
  - Today's Maine DOE Media Release outlining the discussion can be found [here](#).
- The purpose of this temporary suspension will allow nurses and school personnel to put a stronger focus on mitigating strategies such as:
  - Rapid Testing
  - Pooled Testing
  - Attending to sick students
- Per the suspension, future communications regarding RSU 9 exposures include (starting 1/13/22):
  - Not identifying specific close contacts, but when there is a school exposure, those who are in the same classes will be notified through our school communication systems (text and email).
  - Rapid testing will be offered to all students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 five days after the exposure date.
- Updated Testing Availability: RSU 9 is currently working on a testing site for staff and students who are symptomatic. We will be sharing more information on this within a week.