



Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit #12
665 Patricktown Road, Suite 2
Somerville, Maine 04348

Tel: 207-549-3261 / Fax: 207-549-3082 / www.svtsu.org

Howard Tuttle, Superintendent of Schools
Delia Dearnley, Director of Special Services
Michele Grant, Business Manager

Deborah Taylor, Director of Curriculum and Technology
Larry Dancer, Director of Operations
Michael Flynn, Director of School Nutrition

November 15, 2020

COVID-19 **THIRD POSITIVE** CASE COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION LETTER

RE: This alert is specifically for the **Whitefield Elementary School** community only.

Dear RSU 12 (**Whitefield**) Students, Families, Staff, and Community,

This letter is to inform you that a third individual associated with **Whitefield Elementary School** tested positive for COVID-19. After contact tracing, we have determined that there may have been limited exposure to individuals at **Whitefield Elementary School**. We are informing you out of an **abundance of caution**. Please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. It is important to call a health care facility before you show up in person. Stay home if you are sick.

Due to the third positive case for COVID-19 from different families and different cohorts within a 14-day window, RSU 12 will be implementing the following for **Whitefield Elementary School only**.

Whitefield Elementary School will do remote learning for all students from November 16th through November 24th. Students will return to Whitefield Elementary School and in-person learning after the Thanksgiving break on November 30th.

The Maine CDC states that three positive cases in a school from different families and different cohorts within a 14-day window is considered an outbreak. The three confirmed positive cases are also in different cohorts. For the safety of staff, students, and the community, it is prudent to switch to remote learning for 14 calendar days. See below for guidelines and recommendations from the Maine CDC. You can also find the full [Maine CDC guidelines here](#).

If your student is considered a direct contact at Whitefield Elementary School, then you will be contacted directly by the school by phone with directions to quarantine.

The table below is copied from page six of the Maine CDC's Standard Operating Procedures for Investigation and Response to COVID-19 in Pre-K-12 Schools.

The following table summarizes the public health actions that will be taken in response to cases detected within schools.

Table 1: Recommended Public Health Actions for COVID-19 in Schools

Number of Cases	Location	Testing Recommendation	Quarantine Recommendation	Cleaning/Closure Recommendation	Notes
1 or 2	Single classroom/cohorts/pod	All students/staff within the classroom	All students in the classroom	Clean or leave classroom dormant for 7 days	Additional potential locations for close contacts include busses, after-school activities, etc.
1 or 2	Two or more classrooms/cohorts/pod	All students/staff within both classrooms	All students in the classrooms	Clean or leave classroom dormant for 7 days	Additional potential locations for close contacts include busses, after-school activities, etc.
3+ (outbreak*)	Single classroom/cohort/pod	All students/staff within the classroom	All students in the classroom	Clean or leave classroom dormant for 7 days	Additional potential locations for close contacts include busses, after-school activities, etc.
3+ (outbreak*)	Multiple classrooms/cohorts/pods	<p>All students/staff in the same classrooms, cohorts, pods, buses, and extracurricular activities are considered close contacts and are recommended to be tested.</p> <p>Close contacts may expand to include the entire school depending on the epidemiological investigation, considering factors such as adherence with public health guidelines and the age of the students.</p>	<p>All students in the same classrooms, cohorts, pods, buses, and extracurricular activities are considered close contacts and will need to quarantine for 14 days, regardless of test results</p> <p>Close contacts may expand to include the entire school depending on the epidemiological investigation, considering factors such as adherence with public health guidelines and the age of the students.</p> <p>Non-close contacts may return to school with no testing after cleaning or the period of dormancy is complete.</p>	Clean or leave classroom dormant for 7 days	<p>Additional potential locations for close contacts include busses, after-school activities, etc.</p> <p>If and only if students are cohorted in one classroom, it is possible that only affected classrooms will be closed.</p>

*An outbreak is defined as 3 or more confirmed cases from different households within 14 days in a school.

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 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 or chills

- new loss of taste or smell
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- congestion or runny nose
- fatigue
- nausea or vomiting
- muscle or body aches
- diarrhea
- headache

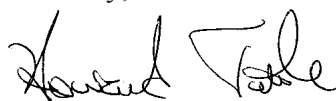
Please keep in mind that many things can cause respiratory illness, so students and staff should be up-to-date on influenza and routine vaccinations.

Maine CDC or a school representative will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the positive individual. A negative test result does not get an individual out of quarantine.

Maine CDC recommends preventive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper hand-washing with soap and warm water, which is especially important after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. When soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent 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 objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Questions for individual schools can be directed to the building principal or the school nurse. For general district information, you can contact the RSU 12 Central Office. For general COVID-19 questions, dial 211 (or 1-866-811-5695). You can also text your ZIP code to 898-211 or email info@211maine.org. Call a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Tuttle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Howard" and last name "Tuttle" clearly distinguishable.

Howard Tuttle
Superintendent, RSU 12