



Searsport • Stockton Springs
Office of the Superintendent
6 Mortland Road
Searsport, ME 04974

Phone: (207) 548-6643

Fax: (207) 548-2310

January 13, 2021

Message from Superintendent Chris Downing

Re: **COVID-19**

Enclosed, please find detailed information regarding an individual associated with RSU 20 testing positive for COVID-19.

Quick look

- RSU #20 response
 - Location: Searsport District Middle High School
 - Notification out of an abundance of caution.
- No close contacts based on this case
- Maine CDC
 - Guidance on signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - Prevention guidance
- How you can get more information



Searsport • Stockton Springs
Office of the Superintendent
6 Mortland Road
Searsport, ME 04974

Phone: (207) 548-6643

Fax: (207) 548-2310

January 13, 2020

Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

This letter is to inform you that an individual associated with Searsport District Middle High School recently tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Based upon the individual's schedule and involvement with the school, there are no identified close contacts within RSU 20 associated with this case. 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 that you call a healthcare facility before you show up in person. Stay home if you are sick.

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

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 recommends prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper handwashing 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 is 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 the school can be directed at Monica Furrow by calling 548-2313. 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,

Chris Downing
Superintendent of Schools, RSU #20