



**Searsport • Stockton Springs**

**Office of the Superintendent**

**6 Mortland Road**

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**Phone: (207) 548-6643**

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November 20, 2020

Message from Superintendent Chris Downing

**Re: Holiday Travel**

Enclosed, please find detailed information regarding precautions during this Holiday Season.

Quick look

- CDC guidance to limit interactions and travel this holiday season.
- Should you travel:
  - Quarantine for 14 days upon return to Maine, or
  - Quarantine until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result. The test must be taken either:
    - In the state you are visiting and no more than 72 hours prior to your return to Maine, or
    - Upon return to Maine.
- Staff or students who travel to restricted states may not be allowed to enter RSU #20 buildings.
- Please utilize the COVID-19 Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance every day as you get ready for school.



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### **Re: Holiday Travel**

As we see the surge of COVID-19 cases across our state and nation, we recognize that our friends and families seek ways to connect and maintain normal traditions in this abnormal time. As the holiday season approaches, it is critically important that our school community continue to do everything possible to keep our schools safe, open, and able to provide in-person instruction.

This may mean making the difficult, but safe, choice to limit holiday gathering and travel. We know both have additional risks for exposure and transmission of the virus. The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued strong guidance to limit our interactions and travel this holiday season, so that we can all gather safely in the future. Further details of the CDC's recommendations can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Based on recommendations by community health experts, we strongly encourage our staff and students to celebrate each holiday within your current household only, and to limit any large gatherings. Staff or students who travel to any state other than New Hampshire or Vermont will be and either:

1. Quarantine for 14 days upon return to Maine, or
2. Quarantine until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result. The test must be taken either:
  - a. In the state you are visiting and no more than 72 hours prior to your return to Maine, or
  - b. Upon return to Maine.

For more information the State of Maine Covid-19 Response, including travel advisories and restrictions, visit

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/#:~:text=Stay%20home-,Gov.,the%20Keep%20Maine%20Healthy%20plan.>

Staff or students who have travelled to restricted states will not be permitted inside any RSU #20 buildings until either the negative COVID-19 test result or 14 days has occurred. This is not dependent on the length of time spent within the restricted states, meaning that a day visit still requires any person to quarantine for 14 days or until a negative COVID-19 test result is confirmed. All members of the household, over 12 months old, who travel outside of Maine must test or quarantine. Testing site information for Maine can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/testing>

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

A non-traditional Thanksgiving can be hard on all of us, and the CDC has some suggestions on healthy alternatives and precautions to consider that can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/thanksgiving.html>

Please stay safe, and help us to keep our school community safe and able to provide for the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Chris Downing  
Superintendent of Schools