July 24, 2020

Dear MSAD #1 Students, Parents, and Staff;

I am writing to provide an update to the MSAD #1 Reopening Plan approved by the MSAD #1 school board and sent to our community last week. Shortly after our plan was sent to our community last Friday, Governor Mills held a press conference which outlined new health and safety guidelines for schools in the Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction document distributed by the Maine Department of Education. The most significant change outlined by Governor Mills requires face coverings (masks or face shields) to be worn by students and school staff in classrooms, on buses, and when transitioning from one class to the next. MSAD #1 will update our district plan to comply with this requirement for reopening schools. In addition to requiring face coverings on buses and when transitioning from one class to the next, we will require face coverings in the classroom. We will provide frequent breaks for students throughout the day to allow for students to take off their face coverings. Students are encouraged to bring their own face coverings to school each day. MSAD #1 will provide face coverings for students who need them.

On Friday, July 31, we will be sending out a detailed reopening plan for each school as well as additional information regarding expectations for remote learning. We will also be providing a survey for families to complete which will ask whether or not their child will be planning to return to in-person learning at our schools or opt for remote instruction. This information will allow us to effectively plan for a safe reopening of our schools.

Information related to the coronavirus and it’s impact on our state and community is ever-changing, as are the health and safety guidelines for our schools. We will continue to communicate with the MSAD #1 community as things change. We ask that our students, families, and staff remain flexible and adaptable during this time.

Best wishes and good health to all.

Sincerely,

Ben Greenlaw
Superintendent