

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1

Castle Hill - Chapman - Mapleton - Presque Isle - Westfield

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Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

I am writing to provide the MSAD 1 community with updated COVID case counts at each school. Additionally, I want to share updates to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for positive COVID cases in schools as announced by the Maine CDC on Wednesday, January 12.

We have been made aware that 43 individuals in MSAD #1 have tested positive for the coronavirus since last week. Fifteen individuals affiliated with Presque Isle High School, fifteen individuals affiliated with Presque Isle Middle School, seven individuals associated with Mapleton Elementary School, five individuals associated with Zippel Elementary School, and one individual affiliated with Pine Street Elementary School. Due to recent changes to the SOP, no students were required to quarantine as a close contact. For up to date information regarding active cases in our schools, please visit our COVID Dashboard on our website at <https://sad1.org/covid-dashboard/>.

On Wednesday, January 12, the Maine CDC announced that schools requiring masks for all students and staff do not need to trace close contacts of positive cases. Currently, all MSAD 1 schools require masks to be worn at school and school activities. The Maine CDC referenced that the Omicron variant is much more contagious than previous variants, has a short incubation period (time of exposure to symptoms), and spreads early in the infectious period, which makes contact tracing ineffective. Moving forward, the district will no longer notify families when their child is a close contact. Positive cases will continue to be reported on our COVID Dashboard each day.

Please remember to keep your child home if he or she is not feeling well and reach out to MSAD #1 Health Service Director, Lisa Mckenna at mckennal@sad1.org for additional guidance prior to returning to school.

Sincerely,



Ben Greenlaw
Superintendent

