

# MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1

Castle Hill - Chapman - Mapleton - Presque Isle - Westfield

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May 6, 2022

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

MSAD 1 will no longer be offering pooled testing to students after Friday, May 13.

The Maine Department of Education announced that the pooled testing program in Maine schools will conclude the week of May 13. Newer COVID-19 variants are proving to be more contagious and to have a shorter incubation period than previous strains. The purpose of weekly pooled testing is for early detection of the presence of the virus in order to quarantine individuals to reduce the risk of further transmission. These shorter incubation periods make detection through weekly pooled testing ineffective.

The Maine Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services will be providing a COVID-19 antigen testing kit for each student and staff member in the coming weeks. Testing kits have been ordered and will be sent home with students when they arrive at our schools. Each kit contains up to 6 individual antigen tests. These free antigen tests are intended to be used when individuals are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

Please contact MSAD 1 Health Services Director, Lisa McKenna at [mckennal@sad1.org](mailto:mckennal@sad1.org) with any questions regarding pooled testing or the forthcoming antigen test kits.

Best wishes and good health during the final stretch of the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,



Ben Greenlaw  
Superintendent