

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

Eric F. Waddell • Superintendent of Schools • ewaddell@kitteryschools.com • (207) 475-1334

December 4, 2020

Good afternoon...

Just an hour ago, I received word that an individual at Traip Academy received a positive Covid-19 test result. The individual was last on campus Tuesday, November 24th and did not return this week. As a result, there are no close contacts affiliated with Traip Academy. I know that is a relief to you all.

I continue to espouse **The Kittery Promise** and the critical importance of students and staff completing the **daily self-check** before coming to school or boarding the school bus. In this particular case, it has prevented the potential spread of the virus. I am grateful for that.

I have attached a letter that is part of the Maine CDC's Standard Operating Procedure for investigating positive Covid-19 cases in Maine schools.

Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools

KITTERY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 4, 2020

Dear Staff, Students, and Families:

I am writing to inform you that an individual associated with Traip Academy recently tested positive for COVID-19. However, we have confirmed with the Maine CDC that there are no close contacts associated with Traip Academy; the individual was last on campus on November 24th and has not been back since then. This individual followed **The Kittery Promise** and followed the parameters of the **daily self-check**. Those mitigation efforts functioned as they should.

We are informing you out of an abundance of caution. As always, please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. It is important that you call a health care facility before you show up in person. Stay home if you are sick. Please call your student's school nurse if your student develops symptoms, tests positive, or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 or is identified as a close contact.

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

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 or a school representative will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive. Although there are no close contacts in this particular case, a close contacts would be asked to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the positive individual. A negative test result does not get an individual out of quarantine.

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 Betsy Burke, RN by calling 207-439-1121. 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,



Eric F. Waddell
Superintendent of Schools