

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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Happy Friday to all!

So here's what I'm **not** going to do in my weekly communication this week. I'm **NOT** going to look at January and THINK I'm looking at June on my calendar and then proceed to share the wrong date for the Traip Academy 2021 Commencement (Just to be clear, it's **FRIDAY, JUNE 11th**). 😊

What a spectacular weekend we have ahead of us! I hope you can soak in some vitamin D this weekend; I know I plan to. That will tee me up nicely for the week ahead, the last week before the much anticipated April school break.

Speaking of that, I know some of you might be planning to **travel** during the Week of April 20th. If you do, remember the State's travel guidance as it pertains to COVID 19:

- *Traveling within the **6 New England states** requires no quarantine period upon your return to Maine.*
- ***Domestic travel outside of New England** requires a 10-day quarantine unless you are fully vaccinated or unless tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days.*
- *A 10-day quarantine may be averted by receiving a **negative antigen, PCR, or TMA test** upon your arrival home. If you know you are traveling domestically outside of New England, you should schedule your COVID 19 test now to avoid missing school when you return.*
- ***Traveling internationally** at this time is highly discouraged by the US CDC. If you do travel internationally, families must contact their school nurse, and employees must contact the HR Manager to set a quarantine plan.*
- ***Effective May 1st**, Maine will allow domestic travel without a required quarantine period.*

Also on the vaccine front, Mainers ages **16 and older** are now eligible for a vaccine effective earlier this week. The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only vaccine approved for 16 and 17-year-olds. For more information about COVID 19 vaccines, [click here](#).

If you have seen our [COVID 19 DASHBOARD](#) on our website, you have learned that the District has experienced **47** positive COVID 19 cases this year. Allow me to share a few data points with you:

- *Of those, **8** have involved fully remote individuals.*
- *Of the remaining **39** cases, **1** has been determined to be the result of school transmission. **3** others were inconclusive.*
- *All other cases resulted from community/home transmission.*

This data tells me that our mitigation efforts have been successful in our schools. Even as our staff become fully

vaccinated and even some of our students, we will continue to adhere to those mitigation efforts until this virus is nothing more than a bad memory. That means physical distancing, mask-wearing, and staying home when you are feeling sick remain a high priority. **The Kittery Promise continues!**

One final virus-related message--the Governor's **Health Advisory System reclassification** was announced earlier today. All Maine counties remain in a **green** classification which "*suggests that the county has a relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider in-person instruction, as long as they are able to implement the required health and safety measures.*" The '**new case rate**' in schools has increased slightly over the past two weeks from 30 to 36 per 10,000, still lower than the statewide total.

As I wrap up this weekly communication, I want to (selfishly) encourage you all to join in on the **Kittery Rotary Club's Virtual 5K Run**. Runner walker, crawler--anyone can participate. The funds generated by the event will help to fund Kittery Rotary Club initiatives, many of which benefit the students of the Kittery School District. Want to help? Click [here](#) to register.

Finally, I had the privilege of serving on a panel yesterday at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to select the **Military Youth of the Year**. The three finalists that I interviewed were all extraordinary, but I was particularly proud of Traip Academy senior Allison Maurice. Ultimately, the award was presented to Faith Ettlich, a remarkable homeschool student with close connections to Traip Academy and Kittery. I was proud to be part of the process, and I wish Faith continued success as she moves forward in the process at a regional and then national level.

Take care...I'll reconnect with you again next Friday.

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell

Superintendent of Schools