

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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

January 3, 2021

Dear Kittery families...

I hope you were able to relax a bit during our December break. I intentionally stepped away from email for the week for a nice break with my family. We are ready to hit the ground running Monday morning!

Speaking of Monday morning, we are resuming our 'status yellow' deployment in all three schools Monday morning, January 4, 2021 (it feels so good to be writing '2021!'). York County continues to be classified as YELLOW in Maine's Health Advisory System. The next re-classification is scheduled for January 15th.

In the meantime, please remember **The Kittery Promise**. It has served us well so far; let's not forget the Promise in 2021. I've attached it along with the **Daily Self Check** for your reference.

I have also attached a letter detailing **three positive cases** (one in each school) since December 24th. There are no close contacts associated with our schools, but it is important (and required by the Maine CDC) to keep you informed.

Happy New Year to all!

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools

KITTERY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

January 3, 2021

Dear Staff, Students, and Families:

This letter is to inform you that one individual associated with Mitchell Primary School, one individual associated with Shapleigh School, and one individual associated with Traip Academy tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) since December 24th. **There are no school-related close contacts involved in any of the three positive cases.** We are informing you out of an abundance of caution. 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.

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. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the positive individual, or for 10 days with a negative PCR test no less than 5 days from the last exposure. 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 may be directed to any of our school nurses:

- Shay Stathoplos, RN ~ Mitchell Primary School ~ 207-439-1707 ~ sstathoplos@kitteryschools.com
- Brenda Bladen, RN ~ Shapleigh School ~ 207-439-2572 ~ bbladen@kitteryschools.com
- Betsy Burke, RN ~ Traip Academy ~ 207-439-1121 ~ bburke@kitteryschools.com

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 Waddell
Superintendent of Schools