



January 10, 2021

Dear East End Community School Students and Families,

This letter is to inform you that two additional individuals associated with East End Community School recently tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) due to exposures outside of school. We are communicating directly with all close contacts and following our protocols. If you have not been contacted, then you are not considered a close contact. We are informing all students and families for transparency and out of an abundance of caution. Please continue to diligently practice our health and safety protocols and to monitor yourself for symptoms.

Unfortunately, as there have been five cases with school exposures from three separate households in the past week, the CDC has designated East End Community School as an outbreak site. While this designation does not require a school closure, due to the number of staff that are required to quarantine, East End School will be closed to in person learning from Monday January 11th through Friday January 15th. All community partner programs associated with East End will also be closed for the coming week. Students and families will receive communication from teachers regarding remote experiences and assignments. Meals will be available for students at Portland High, Deering High, Casco Bay High School, and Talbot Community School from 1-2pm each day. We currently anticipate a return to in person learning on Tuesday January 19th.

Due to privacy laws regarding health status, we are not able to disclose more specific information about the individuals that have tested positive (such as their role, grade level they're associated with, etc.). However, please know that we are following our local and state protocols to ensure health and safety for our school community. These protocols include the following:

- 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 must quarantine for 10 days from their last known date of exposure. Testing for close contacts is recommended 5-7 days from exposure. Close contacts must quarantine for the full 10 days, even if their test result is negative. Secondary contacts of "close contacts", such as family members, can continue to go to work and school, as long as the quarantined person does not have symptoms or a positive test.
- Close contacts in schools are determined by the classroom configurations. This typically means that students within a given cohort along with the staff that interacted with them are close contacts. Other possible exposures (i.e., buses, after school programs, etc.) are also evaluated. Individuals who have been within six feet for more than 15 minutes are also considered to be close contacts.
- Deep cleaning of the spaces will take place after any known cases emerge.
- Testing is available for any symptomatic students or staff through our partnership with Greater Portland Health. Non-symptomatic individuals can also obtain testing through their providers. You can locate a convenient to you testing site at <https://get-tested-covid19.org/>. In general, these testing sites will bill your insurance and you will not



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have any out-of-pocket or copays as a result. If you encounter any hardship in procuring testing, please let your school nurse know.

Additional details about our protocols can be found here on our school reopening website.

We are hoping for the speedy recovery of our community members, and we are taking every precaution to maintain safe and healthy learning environments. Feel free to reach out to principal Boyd Marley or school nurse Shirah O'Connell if you have additional questions.

Best,

Aaron Townsend
Assistant Superintendent of School Management