



December 4, 2020

Dear Amanda C. Rowe Elementary School Students and Families,

This letter is to inform you that three additional individuals associated with Amanda C. Rowe Elementary School recently tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) due to exposures outside of school. We have communicated directly with all close contacts and followed 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, due to these additional cases, we are extending the period of remote learning through next Friday December 11th. Students and families will receive communication from teachers regarding remote experiences and assignments. Meals will be available for students at Portland High School, Deering High School, Casco Bay High School, or Talbot Community School from 1-2pm every day. We currently anticipate in-person schooling to resume on Monday December 14th.

Due to privacy laws regarding health status, we are not able to disclose more specific information about the individual that has 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 14 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 14 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. If we were in a situation where a large number of students or staff needed testing because of an exposure, we have a relationship with Northern Light to provide testing for non-symptomatic students and staff. Non-symptomatic individuals can also obtain testing through their providers. You can locate a convenient to you testing site [here](#). In general, these testing sites will bill your insurance and you will not have any out-of-pocket or copays as a result. If you encounter any hardship in procuring testing, please let your school nurse know.



# PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

prepared & empowered

Additional details about our protocols can be found here on our reopening website (<https://bit.ly/37TRSvu>).

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 Barbara Fletcher or school nurse Wendy Wescott if you have additional questions. Please remember to keep your children home if they have symptoms, wear your masks, practice good hand hygiene, and maintain physical distancing!

Sincerely,

Aaron Townsend  
Assistant Superintendent of School Management