

# SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regional School Unit No. 73



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Dear RSU 73 Staff and Families,

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) has recently updated its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for investigating COVID-19 cases in Maine Schools. RSU 73 will continue to follow all Maine DOE and Maine CDC recommendations and requirements.

## Summary of SOP Changes:

- Quarantine time has been reduced from 10 days to 5 days for Covid-19 Exposure
- Isolation period for people who have tested positive has gone from 10 days to 5 days if the person meets the criteria to come off isolation. The criteria to come out of isolation is that the individual has no symptoms or symptoms have mostly resolved AND no fever for 24 hours without the use of medication. Please call the school nurse to discuss a plan for returning to school following a positive test.
- Universal masking has been added as an exemption from quarantine
- The only students and staff who will need to quarantine/isolate from school will be those with symptoms and/or those that tested positive for Covid.

## Close Contact Changes:

- A COVID-19 exposure that occurs in an outdoor setting or on a school bus is **no longer** considered a close contact and therefore does not have to quarantine.
- Close contacts must quarantine for **5 days** from their last COVID-19 exposure from school and school activities, and then wear a mask for an additional **5 days** unless **at least one of the following conditions are met:**
  1. Close Contact is boosted (if eligible) or
  2. Close Contact is a fully vaccinated 16-17 year old, who has not received a booster or
  3. Close Contact is not eligible for a booster but is fully vaccinated or
  4. Close contact has completed their Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within 6 months, or J&J vaccine within two month or
  5. Close Contact participates in school pooled testing or
  6. **The school is enforcing a mandatory universal masking policy or**
  7. Close contact has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

Scenario 1: The student is exposed to COVID-19 (at school or in the community) and has no symptoms. He/she is not vaccinated or participating in pooled testing. Because the school has universal masking, he/she is able to attend school and all school events but still needs to quarantine from the community.

Scenario 2: A member of the student's family that they live with has tested positive for COVID-19. The student is not vaccinated and does not participate in pooled testing. The student has no symptoms. Because the school has universal masking, he/she is able to attend school and all school events but still needs to quarantine from the community. We highly recommend that the student has a Covid test done prior to returning to school.

Scenario 3: A person (vaccination status does not matter), tested positive for COVID-19 and has no symptoms. They will be in isolation for 5 days as long as they do not develop symptoms (if symptoms develop during isolation on or before day 5, they will restart their 5 day isolation) and will be able to return to school on day 6. Masking is required for 5 additional days when around people or in public places. (in and outside of school)

Scenario 4: A person (vaccination status does not matter), tested positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms. He/she will be in isolation for 5 days. If their symptoms have resolved or greatly improved, in consultation with the school nurse, he/she can return to school. If symptoms have worsened or have not yet improved, he/she will need to stay in isolation until symptoms have improved.

In addition to changes above, the school nurses are going to start communicating close contact information by sending letters when applicable via classroom teacher messaging and/or a hard copy will be sent home with your student. As always, please reach out to your school nurse for questions or concerns. They are here to help guide everyone through this ever changing guidance. Again, please monitor your child for symptoms of illness and keep them home if symptoms develop.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Albert  
Superintendent