

Maine School Administrative District No. 75

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March 11, 2020

Dear M.S.A.D. No. 75 School Community:

We know this is an anxious time for our communities as COVID-19 continues to spread in the United States. M.S.A.D. No. 75 is working closely with the Maine CDC, following recommendations to help prevent the spread of germs in our schools, and prepare in the event there is an outbreak in our community.

We will be scaling up disinfection of our schools by providing staff with spray bottles of approved sanitizer so they can proactively disinfect surfaces during the day. We will continue to disinfect and clean our schools each evening with EPA approved hospital grade disinfectants.

Beginning Monday, March 16, we will be moving the self-serve food items on the salad bars back to the food service line to be served by a School Food Service employee. To further limit exposure, students will no longer be helping clean tables, work in the dish room or help serve food.

We will be following the recommended protocol from the Maine CDC for managing students and staff who become sick while in school. We ask you to help us by making a plan on your end to be available to pick up your child as quickly as possible should we call and tell you your child is sick. If such a call is made, we will provide more information at that time on how to proceed.

The spread of COVID-19 may be anxiety provoking for some students and adults. Some pointers for discussing the situation with your child include:

- Speak with a calm, reassuring voice
- Be honest but don't overwhelm with too many details – be developmentally appropriate
- Help your child feel in control by giving them things they can do (hand washing; cleaning, etc.)

Remaining as calm as possible and focusing on what we can control is the best way to deal with COVID-19 at this time. We encourage you to:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid other people until you are better.

Helpful websites for facts and information on planning for individuals and families include:
MSAD No. 75's website will have a linked tab for COVID-19 on the right-hand side of the page. This site will be updated based on briefings from the Maine CDC. Go to: www.link75.org

Maine CDC Health Alert Network at: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/newhan.shtml>

Maine CDC COVID-19 at: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

Please know school staff are taking this very seriously and being proactive in practices to keep our students safe. Our district has a working group that will meet every Tuesday and Friday to access the latest guidance and updates from the MDOE (Maine Department of Education) and the Maine CDC and communicate to staff and families. We also will be reviewing trips both in and out of state to help ensure the safety of our students, staff and greater communities.

Respectfully,

Shawn M. Chabot
Superintendent of Schools