

Maine School Administrative District No. 75

50 Republic Avenue
Topsham, Maine 04086
TEL (207) 729-9961 FAX (207) 725-9354
www.link75.org

SHAWN M. CHABOT
Superintendent

AMANDA HERSEY
Assistant Superintendent

MARK CONRAD
Business Manager



HEIDI O'LEARY
Director of Special Services
(207) 729-1557

ALLEN LAMPERT
Director of Adult and
Community Education
(207) 729-7323

March 13, 2020

To M.S.A.D. No. 75 Communities:

Updates on COVID-19 Virus

As most of you are acutely aware, the situation with the COVID-19 virus changes day to day and often hour to hour. The M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors and I believe this virus is a real threat, and we are taking it seriously and recommend all members of our school community do the same. We now have daily briefings that I attend along with others, being updated almost hourly on the current conditions.

To that end:

On Monday, March 16, 2020 all schools in M.S.A.D. No. 75 will be closed for students so that all staff have an opportunity to finish developing plans in case we need to close our schools for an extended length of time. On Monday families will receive notification of our next steps concerning possible school closures. All hourly and salaried staff should report as normal to their schools or departments.

Extended school closures: If necessary, we are working closely with and taking our guidance from the Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Maine Department of Education (MDOE) and our medical provider. In case we do need to close schools for an extended length of time, please develop a plan for care of your children while they are not in school.

As we stated in our letter of March 11, 2020, we have increased the cleaning of our classrooms and buildings. We are providing staff with individual cleaning bottles containing approved sanitizer/cleaner. Since the beginning of February the Transportation Department has been utilizing an electromagnetic sprayer to disinfect all of its buses. Additionally, this has since increased in frequency to ensure that seats and handrails are disinfected more often.

We will be postponing and or canceling **all** trips, field trips, and community outreach that are non-essential. As of today this includes trips within the State of Maine.

All before and after-school meetings and events held on school grounds have been canceled or postponed until the end of April Vacation (April 27th).

In the event schools are closed for an extended length of time, the District's Food Services Department is working on a plan to set up locations for students to receive meals, similar to the summer food programs we currently offer every summer.

Regarding spring sports, we continue to work with the Maine Principals Association (MPA) on guidance. As of today, all MPA activities are being postponed until the end of April School Vacation (April 27th).

Staff, parents, and community members are asked to please respect the District's and schools' role in protecting the confidentiality of both students and staff. As with any educational information, medical information is private and protected under Federal and State Law.

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 (handwashing, 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 an 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:

M.S.A.D. 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>

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Chabot
Superintendent of Schools

