



AUGUSTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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James Anastasio, M.A.
Superintendent

November 13, 2020

Katherine Grondin, CAS
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff:

Kathy Casparius,
M.B.A., M.C.T.E.
Business Manager

This letter is to inform you that I was notified early this afternoon that a third individual associated with Farrington Elementary School recently tested positive for COVID-19. Based on CDC guidelines the third positive case moves Farrington to an “outbreak” status. There is a possibility that staff members and many students came into contact with this individual and therefore may have been exposed to the virus. We are informing you out of an abundance of caution.

Susan Walters, CAS
Director of Special Education

Board of Education

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At Large

As a result of the positive cases and the possibility that other students and staff have been exposed, Farrington Elementary will switch to remote instruction from Monday November 16 through Tuesday November 24. The time will be utilized for deep cleaning and contact tracing. Individuals who were in close contact will be notified by Farrington Administration. Farrington students and staff should monitor for signs and symptoms. Please call a health care provider if symptoms are present. It is important that you call a healthcare facility before you show up in person. Please stay home if you are sick.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. It can be more severe in adults 60 years and older and in those with underlying conditions. The virus mainly spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and an uninfected person breathes in the virus. Signs and symptoms include:

Fever or chills	New loss of taste or smell
Cough	Sore throat
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Congestion or runny nose
Fatigue	Nausea or vomiting
Muscle or body aches	Diarrhea
Headache	

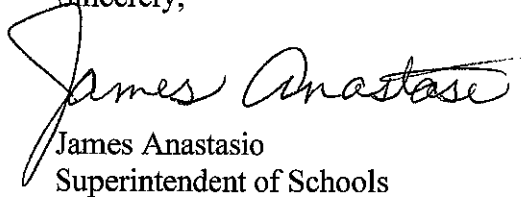
Please keep in mind that many things can cause respiratory illness, so students and staff should be up-to-date on influenza and routine vaccinations.

Maine CDC recommends precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper handwashing with soap and warm water, which is especially important after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. When soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

School questions can be directed to Teresa Beaudoin, school principal or Bobbie Morrissette, school nurse. For general COVID-19 questions, dial 211 (or 1-866-811-5695). You can also text your ZIP code to 898-211 or email info@211maine.org. Call a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

It is unfortunate that we all are dealing with an interruption to school and inconvenience and frustration as a result, but the health and safety of students and staff is more important.

Sincerely,



James Anastasio
Superintendent of Schools