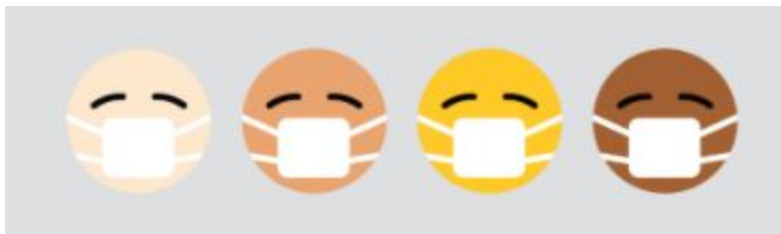


Augusta School Department

COVID-19 PARENT GUIDE FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL

In response to COVID-19, the Augusta School Department (ASD) will comply with the guidelines set forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as the State of Maine, which are incorporated herein. These ASD Guidelines will be in effect from August 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 and will be updated with the latest CDC and State of Maine guidelines. Our goal is to continue to minimize the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 and safely bring back as many students as possible for an in-person school setting to maximize learning. **Therefore, these ASD COVID GUIDELINES are mandatory for all students and parents/guardians.** Parents/Guardians are required to read the Parent Guide and sign and return the COVID-19 Return to School Agreement on the last page and mail, email or send into school with your child/children.



Health & Safety

DAILY SELF ASSESSMENT:

- Prior to boarding ASD buses or before entering ASD property, parents must complete a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms with their child. Certain responses will require that a child remain home. In this event, Parent/Guardian should contact their child's School Nurse. The self-screening will be available in paper form or via our district/school websites. *See attached daily self-assessment at the end of this document*

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS:

- All students are required to wear a face covering/mask that covers their nose and mouth when in the presence of others and maintain three (3) feet of distance at all times throughout the day. [See CDC guidance on social distancing](#). Maintaining three (3) feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements.
 - Adapted from the CDC and airline information:
 - The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control.
 - Face coverings must be capable of preventing respiratory droplets from being released.
 - Prohibited Face Coverings: Face coverings with holes, including exhaust valves; face coverings made solely of mesh or lace; bandannas and other face coverings that cannot be secured under the chin; face shields without a face covering underneath. Neck gaiters must cover the nose and mouth and are secured under the chin and prevent respiratory droplets from being released.
- Six (6) feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating breakfast and lunch, as students will be unable to wear masks at that time.
- All students will be provided with two cloth face masks per CDC guidelines. Masks need to be washed daily at home with warm soapy water and air dried. All personal cotton masks need to comply with ASD dress code policy (i.e. inappropriate picture or statements). Face covering must be capable of preventing respiratory droplets from being released. It is not recommended to wear gaiters.
- Face shields, if approved, may be an alternative for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear cotton masks. When approved, face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.

PREVENTION MEASURES:

- All students must practice proper handwashing guidelines and use hand sanitizer upon entering the school, their classroom, before and after donning or removing a face covering, and throughout the day as well as practice safe social distancing.
- All students must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use sanitizer if washing is not possible) when:

- The students hands are visibly soiled
- After coughing or sneezing
- Before and after: eating, using the restroom, or touching bodily fluids
- Before and after touching common surfaces like workstations, table tops, touch screens, door handles, buttons or keypads, light switches, cover plates, countertops, bus seat backs, handrails, windows and window ledges.
- All students must practice proper [CDC infection control measures](#):
 - If coughing or sneezing, students must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, or the inside of their elbow, and immediately discard the tissue.
 - Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - Avoid touching any surfaces unnecessarily.
 - Refrain from physical contact, including hugs and hand-shakes.
- Restroom procedures will be established at each school to limit the number of students in the hallways and restrooms at one time.
- Students should only bring to school what is absolutely essential for each day. Any items brought to school should fit into a single backpack.
- Classrooms will be reconfigured to allow physical distance with students facing one direction.
 - The use of lockers at Cony will be suspended. Students will be allowed to carry a backpack with them.
 - Sharing of items (electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids) will be discouraged and restricted.
 - In the elementary schools, each child's belongings will be separated from others' and in individual containers, cubbies, or areas.
 - Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will not be allowed.
 - See CDC's informational video on how to [Stop the spread of germs](#).

PLAYGROUND USE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

- Use of designated playground equipment and supplies will be allowed under close monitoring.
- Use of face coverings/shields will NOT be required during this time as long as physical distancing is maintained.
- Limits will be placed on the number of students on equipment at one time.
- As needed, areas of the playground will be established and student groups will be assigned to remain in each area each day. These areas will rotate so that students are able to use the entire playground.
- Students will wash their hands/use sanitizer before and after using playground equipment.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

- The Augusta School Department will plan for special education students, including students with disabilities, a 504 plan, and English Learners, to ensure they receive necessary services and accommodations.
- Determination of additional PPE requirements will be made by the Special Education Director based upon the unique needs of each student/situation. Additional PPE may be

provided for staff working with young children, students with IEPs or students with specialized health plans such as, but are not limited to:

- Clear face coverings and/or
- Face Shields
- Kevlar sleeves/arm protectors
- Gloves
- Gowns
- Plexiglass barriers for students and teachers desks

TRANSPORTATION

- Families should consider alternatives to getting to school including; personal vehicle, walking, and biking where possible. Carpooling with a stable group of people is recommended. Face coverings should be utilized.
- All parents/guardians must complete a daily student health assessment prior to boarding any ASD busses. If your child exhibits any signs or symptoms please keep them home and contact the school nurse. **See daily at home health screening tool at the end of this document.**
- Students are required to wear a face covering/mask at all times while riding on the bus/van, including upon entry/exit
- Students must use hand sanitizer when they enter the bus/van.
- Families should be vigilant to limit contact between other parents/students at bus stops and direct contact with the bus driver as much as possible by maintaining six (6) foot distance.
- Students will be assigned seats and must sit in the seats assigned to them. Family members will be allowed to sit together.
- Seats in the back of the bus must be loaded first and then move forward. The bus should be emptied from the front and then the back.
- Students will need to practice social distancing when exiting the bus. The bus radio will be used to dismiss by rows.
- Several windows will be slightly opened to improve air ventilation.
- Bus Drivers will clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces between uses as much as possible. High-touch areas in buses such as seat backs, handrails, stability poles, bars, windows and window ledges and the possibility of spraying busses between runs.

PARENT/GUARDIAN/VISITORS:

- Parent/Guardians will minimize face-to face meetings by utilizing alternative methods to receive updates (i.e. email, conference call, phone call, web based meetings).
- A scheduled appointment must be made prior to any Parent/Guardian entering the building for an IEP meeting or other important business. All Parent/Guardians will need to be screened and should utilize reception windows as main office spaces are restricted to administrative and office staff.
- Parents/Guardians will be asked the same screening questions that they use for their child prior to entry to any school building. If any response is “yes”, the parent/guardian will not be allowed into the building. If allowed in the building, parents/guardians:

- Must wear a face covering while in the buildings.
- Must use the sanitizing station upon entry, maintain a social distance of six (6) feet.
- Must attend to their specific business and leave immediately following.
- Visitors and Volunteers will not be allowed in any School at this time.

TECHNOLOGY:

- In a hybrid or remote instruction model, 1:1 devices will be provided to each K-12 student. The devices will be transported by the student between school and home.
- Parents/Guardians agree to return the borrowed devices when school returns to full capacity or for service and disinfecting.
- Sharing of devices between students is not acceptable.. If it is required devices will be sanitized after each shared use.

CLASSROOM SETTING: (If In-Person Instruction is permitted)

- Classroom seating will be configured with maximum allowable space between students and all desks facing the same direction.
- Schedules will be arranged in a way that will limit student movement and/or interactions between student groups throughout the day.
- Employees will modify instructional plans to reduce student contact, sharing of materials or equipment and maintain appropriate physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Common touch surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day.

REMOTE INSTRUCTION

- Any Augusta School Department student across grades Pre K-12 will have the option of participating in remote instruction. Remote instruction is available for any student with health and safety concerns, elevated health risks or a family member with elevated health risks.
- These remote learning programs will be fully graded and credit bearing.
- Assigned instructional staff will also coordinate to ensure programs such as Special Education, 504, RTI, or ELL programs are provided to students remotely as needed. .

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AREAS:

- School offices are restricted to administrative and office staff. Any student seeking to access main office spaces must receive prior approval from the office staff.
- Plexiglas barriers will be installed at all public facing work stations, as needed.
- Elevators will be limited to a maximum of two (2) people per ride.
- Eating Restrictions: Shared food is prohibited. There will be no shared utensils or kitchen supplies. Students must maintain 6ft of distance when eating in their room. Students may, with the approval of their teacher, eat lunch outside as weather permits.

NURSING OFFICE CHANGES:

- Students requiring daily medications/nurse visits will be called to the office one at a time.

- Medications should be given at home before/after school as much as possible to limit exposure of healthy students.
 - Parents dropping off medications at school will need to make an appointment with the School Nurse for a designated time.
 - Teachers will handle minor ailments within the classroom as much as possible.
 - For students becoming ill during the school day with possible symptoms of COVID-19 the teacher will call ahead to the nurse and the student will be escorted to the isolation room for screening and will remain there until being dismissed.
 - Parents/guardians should work with their student's health care provider to change nebulized medication to metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) with spacer. Spacers are required for all MDI's even for those students who self-carry to limit aerosol generation.
 - Aerosol-generating procedures will not be completed at school at this time.
 - Common "aerosol-generating" procedures and devices, used by students with complex medical conditions include:
 - CPAP and BIPAP
 - Ventilator use
 - High-Flow oxygen use
 - Tracheostomy procedures, and mist collars
 - Open Suction
 - Cough assist device use
 - Nebulizer use
- Parents/guardians of students with complex medical conditions should consult with the student's health care provider(s) to determine whether the student should continue a distance learning program/home instruction even after school opens.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION/MEALS:

- When possible elementary students will remain in classrooms for all snacks and meals if six (6) feet of physical distance is possible. Cafeteria/Gymnasiums will be used for all High School and Middle School students and for most elementary schools for snacks and lunches. All students will maintain six (6) feet of physical distance while eating as students will be unable to wear face coverings during these times.
- Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle each day as water fountains will be closed. Bottles may be refilled using our bottle fill stations (for those schools that have them available). Water filling stations will be sanitized along with all other "common touch" surfaces.
- All food served to students will be covered and individually wrapped including utensils.
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are put back in lunch boxes.
- Any food and beverage items served from food service staff will be served by staff following safety and sanitation guidelines, including appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Shared food is prohibited, Parents are asked only to send food for their child and not class consumption (i.e. birthdays, holiday celebrations).
- Students will be required to practice proper hand washing/sanitizing prior to eating.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PICK UP / DROP OFF:

- Parents/Guardians will not be allowed into the facility without the approval of the Building Administrator. This is to increase the safety of all students and staff.

- Students that are being dropped off will not be allowed to enter Cony High School/Middle School until 6:50am. All students attending Farrington, Sylvio Gilbert, Lillian Hussy and Lincoln School will not be allowed in until 8:00am. All elementary students will go directly to their homeroom for the start of school. All High School and Middle School Students will go to their first assigned class for the start of school.
- Parent pick up of students at the end of the school day will take place outside of the school. Parents will not be allowed into the facility without the approval of the Building Administrator. Each Elementary School will establish a pick up location for parents to line up and students will be called to come out by a staff member.
- If you are picking up your student early for an appointment you will need to call the school prior to arriving or upon arrival. A staff member will assist the student in leaving the facility.
- If you have any changes on where your child is going at the end of the day please call the High School/Middle School before 1:00pm and before 1:30pm for all elementary schools. This will allow time to make sure your student is going to the correct location each day.

CDC TRAINING VIDEOS:

- [Cloth Face Coverings Do's and Don'ts](#)
- [Handwashing](#)
- [Social Distancing](#)
- [Stop the spread of germs](#)
- [Know the Symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4U1G96s76Y>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PmVJQUCm4E>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/cdctv/healthyliving/hygiene/wash-your-hands.html>
- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4KRuP1QGmhU>

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ILLNESS

- If a student is evaluated by the Nurse, Administrative Staff or Teacher and is deemed necessary to return home due to symptoms of COVID-19 a parent or guardian will need to pick up their child immediately.
- The School Nurse will send home an Illness Instruction form with your child that will provide information on why your child is being sent home and what the required measures will be before your child may return to school.
- If your child has any symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 you will be required to keep your child home. Contact the School Nurse or Attendance/Main Office to report any absence or positive test results.

RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Parents/ Guardians will notify the School Nurse if their child, or anyone in their household, has been confirmed to have COVID-19. As a response to protect the health and safety of our students and staff, areas will be sanitized and CDC guidelines followed to notify all families and employees that have come in contact with and/or have been exposed to the student in the most confidential manner possible.

- Under the current Maine CDC guidance, a student who has tested positive for COVID-19 will NOT be able to return to school until:
 - the student has gone 24 hours (1 day) without exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, **and** at least ten days have passed since the student's symptoms first appeared;
- OR**
- the student has received two negative COVID-19 test results from specimens taken more than 24 hours apart.
- AND**
- Documentation of medical clearance will be required to return to school and must be submitted to the School Nurse
 - Documentation of medical clearance will be required to return to school and must be submitted to the School Nurse
- Students who have had close contact with someone who test positive for, or is diagnosed with, COVID-19 must isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Close contact is defined as “any individual who has been closer than six (6) feet for more than 15 minutes.”
 - Depending upon circumstances, this could include entire classrooms, bus routes, playground groupings, or cafeteria groupings.
 - Students returning from illness related to COVID-19 will be required to check in with the school nurse and school administration.
 - The school will work closely with Maine CDC on all contact tracing and other related protocols.
 - During the time students are out of school, arrangements will be made to ensure they do not fall behind in their learning (i.e. remote instruction or make-up work following a healthy return).

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SELF QUARANTINED DUE TO EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

Parents who believe their child has been exposed to COVID-19 should keep their child at HOME, CONTACT THEIR SCHOOL NURSE, follow [CDC Guidelines for quarantine and self isolation](#), and contact their Primary Care Physician. Students who have been tested and the results were negative should communicate those results to their school nurse. Once done, the school nurse may allow the student to return to school. Students who have not been tested but who have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 may not return to school until the student has gone three days without exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, and at least ten days have passed since the student's symptoms appeared.

Students who have traveled out of state to those states not listed in the most up-to-date Governor's orders must isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days before being able to return to school. If students participate in remote learning during the quarantine, those days will not be counted as absences.

PLAN FOR "HIGH RISK" STUDENTS

The Augusta School Department will work with each individual student to provide realistic accommodations to students who may be in need. Communication is the key to the establishment of effective accommodations for students. Any students who have a medical condition that is considered to be in a "high risk" category should communicate with the School Nurse and provide medical documentation. This will allow the ASD to review the circumstances and to understand if accommodations may be made and if there is a need for remote work.

AT HOME HEALTH SCREENING TOOL FOR STUDENTS

Parents/Guardians: Please review this screening tool **before** school **every morning** for each of your school-aged children. This tool is for your reference only, **do not** send it to school.

Is your child experiencing any of the following symptoms?

- Feeling unwell
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever-like symptoms such as body aches, body chills and/or sweating
- Temperature over 100.4 degrees F or 38.0 degrees C
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Chills or repeated shaking from chills
- Runny nose/congestion
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child is experiencing any of the above listed symptoms, keep your child home from school and contact your medical provider for further instructions.

****If any of the above-listed symptoms are sudden or severe,
seek immediate medical attention.****

Daily Required At Home Assessment

Please indicate yes or no next to the following statements:	Yes	No
Has your child taken cough/cold medication and/or fever reducers such as Tylenol/ibuprofen today for the above listed symptoms?		
Has your child been tested for COVID-19 in the last 2 weeks?		
Has your child student had close contact* with someone with a <u>confirmed</u> diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?		
Has your child had close contact* with someone with a <u>suspected</u> diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?		
Has your child traveled by air or traveled out of state in the past 14 days? If yes, please contact the school before arriving on campus.		

*What counts as close contact?

- Your child was within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- Someone in your home is sick with COVID-19
- Your child had direct physical contact with the sick person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Your child shared eating or drinking utensils with the sick person
- The sick person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on your child

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, keep your child home from school. Contact your medical provider for further instructions.

COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL AGREEMENT

The Augusta School Department (ASD) must adhere to the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as the State of Maine in response to COVID-19. Our goal is to continue to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between students. Work schedules and workspaces may have been modified or reassigned to ensure students are safe and able to comply in accordance with the ASD COVID-19 Return to School Agreement.

I, _____ (Please print name), acknowledge, understand, and agree that my student _____ (Child's Name) and _____ (Grade Level) attending the Augusta School Department will adhere to protocols listed in the Parent Guide.

My signature below is an acknowledgment that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the above terms.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent Phone Number and alternative number

email address