

April 16, 2021

Dear RSU 16 Families, Staff, Community Members, Students and Homeschool Families,

Last night the majority of the School Board approved the recommendation to stay in the hybrid education model for the remainder of this current school year. This means that in-person learning will continue 2 or 3 days a week depending on the cohort your student is assigned and that VL5 will continue uninterrupted. The time that remains in this school year will allow RSU16 to develop a plan for all our students to return to full time, five days a week in-person instruction in the Fall.

Additionally, the majority of the School Board passed the proposed 2021-2022 school budget and associated articles, that will be sent to the voters for a budget validation referendum vote that will be held on June 8, 2021 at each town's local voting location. For more information about the school budget please join us during our scheduled Public Informational Meeting to be held via remote Zoom webinar on May 26, 2021 @ 6:30 PM. All budget documents can be found at <https://www.rsu16.org/about/budget-information/index>

Join Public Informational Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98791956365?pwd=OFRmUU1UazErMi9WZCt6cck5azZLQT09>

Meeting ID: 987 9195 6365

Passcode: 454032

Positive COVID cases during Vacation

Stay safe! Wear your mask, wash your hands, and keep socially distance because we want to see all of our students and staff back in our buildings after vacation! We need your help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the amount of staff and students in quarantine.

If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 during vacation, call RSU16 COVID Nurse Tracer, Jessica Taylor at 740-0791.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Exempt states: Residents from the following states are exempt from the testing and 10-day quarantine requirement because, when adjusted for population, the prevalence of active cases of COVID-19 in these states is similar to Maine. Maine residents can also travel to these states and return without testing or completing a 10-day quarantine. *Exempt effective March 5, 2021: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.* **If you travel outside the authorized locations you must inform your supervisor/school in advance.**

Quarantine - It is mandated that all out-of-state travelers coming into Maine, as well as Maine residents returning to Maine, from a non-exempt state, complete a 10-day quarantine upon arrival. Travelers should monitor for signs and symptoms for an additional 4 days.

Negative Antigen or Molecular Test Result - The State will allow adults who have a negative COVID-19 antigen or molecular (PCR, NAAT, or isothermal) test collected no more than 72 hours before arriving in Maine to forgo the 10-day quarantine upon arrival in Maine. An antibody test is not accepted to forgo quarantine for

visitors and those returning to Maine. Individuals may be tested upon arrival in Maine as well, but they must quarantine while awaiting the results.

Quarantine and Testing Exemptions - Vaccination exemption: Individuals who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination series and are 14 days beyond the completion of the series are exempt from the testing and 10-day quarantine requirement above, regardless of their state of origin. **Exemption for those who have had COVID-19:** An individual who had a positive COVID-19 molecular or antigen test is exempt from the testing and 10-day quarantine requirement above for 90 days (3 months) after their first positive test, provided they remain asymptomatic.

International travel guidelines

[Maine has updated](#) the international travel guidelines to align with US CDC for those that are fully vaccinated. For people who **are fully vaccinated** (at least 14 days past their final COVID-19 dose) who arrive in Maine:

Quarantine is not required unless you are experiencing symptoms.

Testing is recommended 3-5 days after arrival in the US. If the COVID-19 test is positive, isolate.

Avoid being around anyone who is at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness for 14 days following arrival in the US, regardless of COVID-19 test results.

For all people who **are not fully** vaccinated and arrive in Maine within 7 days of entering the United States:

Quarantine for 7 days from arrival in the US AND get a COVID-19 molecular or antigen test 3-5 days after arrival in the US. If the COVID-19 test is positive, isolate.

Even if the COVID-19 test is negative, complete the 7-day quarantine after travel.

If individuals arriving from international travel do not get a COVID-19 test after their arrival, they should quarantine for 10 days after their arrival in the US.

Avoid being around anyone who is at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness for 14 days following arrival in the US, regardless of COVID-19 test results.

For individuals who arrive in Maine more than 7 days after travel, follow guidelines for domestic travelers arriving in Maine. Travel guidance for all passengers coming to the United States, including US citizens, can be found [here](#).

US CDC International travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

VACCINATIONS

How can you register yourself or your 16 and older student for vaccination? Here is the website for current [Maine Vaccination-sites](#) for eligible people to schedule a vaccine appointment. Maine residents age 16 and older may pre-register at [VaccinateME.Maine.gov](#) to be notified when appointments are available. When a vaccination appointment becomes available to you, you'll receive an email with a personal access code that allows you to look for available openings across a number of sites and schedule an appointment. Students who are 16 or 17 must have parental consent and must be accompanied by a parent when vaccinated. Students who are 18 may register as adults.

What will be different for you and your student after you are vaccinated?

Vaccination Exemption for Domestic Travel: Individuals who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination series and are 14 days beyond the completion of the series are exempt from the testing and 10-day quarantine requirement above, regardless of their state of origin.

Vaccinated Close Contacts: An individual who has completed a COVID-19 vaccination series and is exposed to a COVID-19 case does not need to quarantine 1.) so long as the exposure is more than 14 days after the individual's completion of the COVID19 vaccine series and 2.) the individual does not have any symptoms.

What vaccines are available for students aged 16-17? Only Pfizer is approved for children ages 16 and 17 at this time.

[Transportation to COVID-19 Vaccination Services \(PDF\)](#) - Free transportation is available for Mainers who do not have access to reliable transportation, are unable to drive, or are otherwise unable to travel to their appointment.

Next week is vacation week and the temptation will be great to interact with family and friends, many of whom have not been fully vaccinated yet. Please be aware of the risk that our children face when gathering for family, sporting, and fun activities and please require them to remain masked with those who are not vaccinated yet and continue to socially distance when appropriate. We should all work to avoid another spike in COVID-19 cases like we have seen this last month in hopes we can continue to stay safely in the hybrid system for the remainder of the school year. Enjoy your time off.

Sincerely,

Ken and Amy