

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

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Office of the Superintendent

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“Public Schools not only serve the public, they make the public.”

Superintendent’s Memo

To: CSD 13 Parents, Guardians and Staff

From: Christian M. Elkington

Re: Weekend Update #1

Date: 11-21-2020

On behalf of all of the CSD 13 Administration and School Board, I want to express our thanks to all of you who have supported our efforts to keep Deer Isle-Stonington Schools COVID-19 free during these uncharted waters. Because our students, with support of their families and our staff, have followed our precautions, we have been able to keep our schools open for in-person learning! The longer we, **you** can keep these efforts moving forward, by following the precautions already set by Governor Mills and complying with new ones set to meet the upsurge in COVID-19 cases, the greater the chance that we can keep our kids and staff where they belong -- in school!

This is the first of two communications I will be sharing with you this weekend. This update covers some quick FYIs to keep you “in the know” about CSD 13 operations.

The SU 76 Stay Home & Return Guidelines – Have been updated and are attached with this email. Per CDC guidance we have removed stomach pain, swelling of the hands and feet, and red eyes/eye discharge from the Minor Symptoms Category as it has been determined that they are not signs of possible COVID-19 Infection.

Weekend communication about possible close or direct contact with a positive COVID case is critical to our schools - If you find out on a weekend that a student, a staff member and/or family may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 and you are waiting for test results to determine if you or your student are positive, it is critically important that you communicate this information to CSD administration ASAP! We need this information quickly so that we can prepare to do Contract Tracing, notify families and staff of potential exposure and complete extra sanitizing. If this happens to your family, PLEASE email your building principal with this information immediately. The principal will keep names confidential as we prepare! Thank YOU!

AM Bus and Student drop off times will be changing in the CSD starting on Monday, November 30th. As we work to balance the need for in-person classes with student and staff COVID-19 safety needs, we find we need to adjust our drop off times at the start of our school day. Drop off times will now be from 7:45 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. For those of you with students who take the bus, this means the bus will be coming 15 minutes later. We understand that some parents may have work needs that make a drop off at 7:45 a.m. hard to meet. If this is so for you, please contact your school’s principal so they can assist as many of you as possible with “special”

drop off needs. Thank YOU!

Yesterday, the Mills Administration released – Its weekly update to its Health Advisory System that classifies counties' relative risk of COVID-19 transmission by color. This is provided to assist schools as they continue to plan for the delivery of instruction while supporting student and staff safety. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) regularly assess the data and trends for all counties. As of yesterday, we continue to be Green, but under close watch.

Reminder, that a Daily Student – Staff Health Survey – Is to be completed *every* day before sending your child to school or, for employees, before coming to work. Thanks for your continued follow-through. The survey includes the following questions:

- Do I feel unwell today?
- Do I have a cough, a fever, or sore throat?
- Do I have a fever or do I feel feverish?
- Do I have shortness of breath?
- Have I lost my sense of taste or smell?
- Have I been around anyone exhibiting these symptoms in the past 14 days?
- Has anyone in my household been sick or quarantined?
- Have I been out of State in the last 14 days?

(If you answered yes to any of the above, please contact your school and stay home.)

The escalating impact of COVID-19 across our state and the nation – Will make it hard to be with family and friends if you follow the CDC's and Governor's advice to keep yourself away from those you normally see over the holidays safe! This is particularly difficult when families and friends are looking for ways to connect and to maintain normal traditions during the Pandemic. As the first holiday of the season approaches, it is critically important ***that our entire school community continue to do everything we can to keep our communities safe by keeping our schools safe, open, and able to provide in-person instruction.*** This means that you may need to make a safe or difficult choice to limit the size of your holiday gatherings or to not travel, if that is your tradition. The scientific data is clear that increased risk for both exposure and transmission of this deadly virus, which we know is in our area.

The United States Center for Disease Control has issued strong guidance to the American people to limit our interactions and travel this holiday season. Following these guidelines now will enable us to gather safely in the future. Further details of the CDC's recommendations can be found here: [COVID-19 Holiday Celebrations and Gatherings](#). Based on the recommendations of the community health experts, I strongly encourage all of us - students, parents and staff -- to celebrate each holiday within your current household only and to limit any large gatherings.

A non-traditional Thanksgiving will be hard on all of us. The CDC has some suggestions on healthy alternatives and precautions to consider that can be found here: [COVID-19 Celebrating Thanksgiving](#). Please help us keep our school community safe and to continue to provide in-person learning for our students!

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” – Abraham Lincoln

Thank you again for all of your assistance and continued good will and support. We are at a point where our pulling together is all the more important! ***Together we will keep HOPE alive within each of our children, within each of us and within each of our communities!***