

Regional School Unit 83
Maine School Administrative District No. 13
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Moscow Elementary School
Grade Pre-K-4
(207) 672-5572

Valley Jr./Sr. High School
Grades 5-8 & 9-12
672-3300

November 20, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members,

MSAD 13 and our communities have experienced their first cases of COVID-19. In response to these cases Valley Jr and Sr High School moved to remote learning with Moscow Elementary School remaining in-person. Valley Jr/Sr High School is scheduled to return to in-person learning on Nov 30th. We will only be able to do this if our infection rates continue to decline. We need your help to keep our students in school where they can participate in in-person learning. Our students need you to wear your masks and follow social distancing when you are in the public. This will help us control the number of cases in our communities allowing our schools to remain in-person.

Somerset County is experiencing their highest number of cases since the pandemic began in March 2020. CDC has announced that while Somerset County's infection rate has declined slightly this week, the county's infection rate is the **third highest** in Maine at 24.4 and its positivity rates remain high at 4.7 percent. Over the last 30 days, the new case rate in Maine schools, including both students and staff, was 8.8 cases per 10,000, compared to 19.9 cases per 10,000 in Maine overall. This may indicate that school settings are safer than other community settings, and this is likely due to our schools carefully adhering to the health and safety requirements and guidelines.

We need you to continue and increase your efforts in our communities as we face the additional challenges brought on by compliance fatigue, the colder weather, and the holiday season. Please wear masks when you are in public and limit the size of all gatherings. Maine CDC and Department of Education have suggested increased precautions for schools to follow, many of which MSAD 13 has already been following.

There will be changes regarding mask breaks when students and staff return on Nov 30. In addition to the time during which students may be eating or drinking with a minimum of 6' physical distancing, school staff and students will be limited to 3 - 5 minute mask breaks per day up to a maximum of 15 minutes per day.

MSAD 13 may experience days when a particular class or grade level may be canceled. MSAD 13 is having difficulty hiring substitute staff and is hesitant to bring non-staff members into your schools. The district staff members have been providing coverage for each other but when we have several staff members not able to report to work we may have to cancel a specific content area at the high school, such as math or a grade level at Moscow. We will not do this unless we have exhausted all other possibilities. MSAD 13 staff continues to work diligently to provide the best educational learning opportunities for your children. Thank you for your support during these difficult and challenging times.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Please stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,



Sandra J MacArthur
Superintendent MSAD 13