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LYNWOOD L. McHATTEN, JR.
GUIDANCE DIRECTOR



Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

I am writing to inform you that a person affiliated with another school came into contact with students and staff during an outdoor athletic event hosted at Ashland District School on August 23, 2021. The student tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our School Health department notified the students considered close contacts to the individual who tested positive. If you have not been contacted, your student is not considered a close contact. We have approximately 10 students who are considered close contacts and will need to quarantine for 10 days. One additional student is considered a close contact, but does not need to quarantine since the student is fully vaccinated. The quarantine recommendation is ten days from last possible contact with the individual who tested positive for COVID. These close contacts will be out of ten-day quarantine and are welcome back to school activities on Thursday, September 2.

The staff members who are considered close contacts to the positive cases that occurred at Ashland District School will not need to quarantine since those staff members are fully vaccinated. As a result, **Ashland District School stays on schedule to open for in-person instruction on September 7, 2021.**

ADS officials have been in contact with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and are following the protocols and procedures outlined for schools to follow when a case of the coronavirus occurs in a school. The CDC recommends that close contacts of a person who tests positive for the coronavirus should quarantine for 10 days.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. 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 • cough • shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue • muscle or body aches • headache
- sore throat • new loss of taste or smell • congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting • diarrhea

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.

Please continue to take the necessary precautions against the coronavirus in order to reduce the spread of the disease. Feel free to reach out to our School Nurse, Sheila Nemer at snemer@sad32.org or Principal Joel Hall at jhall@sad32.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gehrig Johnson, Superintendent

Joel Hall, Asst. Superintendent/Principal