

## Maine School Administrative District No. 75

50 Republic Avenue  
Topsham, Maine 04086  
TEL (207) 729-9961 FAX (207) 725-9354  
[www.link75.org](http://www.link75.org)

SHAWN M. CHABOT  
Superintendent

AMANDA HERSEY  
Assistant Superintendent

MARK CONRAD  
Business Manager



HEIDI O'LEARY  
Director of Special Services  
(207) 729-1557

ALLEN LAMPERT  
Director of Adult and  
Community Education  
(207) 729-7323

March 14, 2020

To M.S.A.D. No. 75 Communities:

### Update #3 on COVID-19 Virus

After consulting with our medical provider, the Maine Department of Education, and area superintendents we have made additional decisions concerning our schools and school system. We believe this is our best course of action for our whole community, both school and at large. We also understand that for many families our plan will create hardships and challenges. We will all need to come to terms with a “new normal” for a period of time. We feel that these decisions are critical for the health and welfare for our school (students and staff) and the broader community at large. We encourage everyone to practice “social distancing” and to take care of one another and your neighbor; especially those with pre-existing medical conditions and individuals who are over 60 years old.

#### To that end:

**On Monday, March 16, 2020 all schools in M.S.A.D. No. 75 will be closed for students until at least Friday, March 27, 2020. This is a TWO-week closure. We will reassess and confer with our medical providers, the Maine Department of Education, and local superintendents during the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup> and communicate with all stakeholders.**

**Monday, March 16 all hourly and salaried staff should report as normal to their schools or departments. Principals and department supervisors will communicate with their staff to explain details of the work day.**

On Monday, March 16 the District's administrators, teachers, and educational technicians will complete our continuity of learning plans. By the end of the day Monday, we will communicate all elements of the plan to students, parents and guardians.

The District's Food Services Department has a plan for students to receive meals, similar to the summer food programs we currently offer every summer. We will be sending information out to families on where and how to access the meals within our district.

Regarding spring sports, we continue to work with the Maine Principals Association (MPA) on guidance. As of today, all MPA activities are postponed until the end of April School Vacation (April 27<sup>th</sup>).

All before and after-school meetings, in state field trips, and events held on school grounds have been canceled or postponed until the end of April Vacation (April 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Staff, parents, and community members are asked to please respect the District's and schools' role in protecting the confidentiality of both students and staff. As with any educational information, medical information is private and protected under Federal and State Law.**

The spread of COVID-19 may be anxiety provoking for some students and adults. Some pointers for discussing the situation with your child include:

- Speak with a calm, reassuring voice.
- Be honest but don't overwhelm with too many details – be developmentally appropriate.
- Help your child feel in control by giving them things they can do (handwashing, cleaning, etc.)

Remaining as calm as possible and focusing on what we can control is the best way to deal with COVID-19 at this time. We encourage you to:

- Remind your children and family members to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Be sure to set an example by doing this yourself.
- Remind your children and family members to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Remind your children and family members to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid other people until you are better.

Helpful websites for facts and information on planning for individuals and families include:

M.S.A.D. No. 75's website will have a linked tab for COVID-19 on the right-hand side of the page. This site will be updated based on briefings from the Maine CDC. Go to: [www.link75.org](http://www.link75.org).

Maine CDC COVID-19 at: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

At the end of this outbreak, it is my sincere hope that our reactions have mitigated this outbreak.

Sincerely and be well,

Shawn M. Chabot  
Superintendent of Schools

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