

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - January 8, 2021

SPS COVID-19 Update

As community spread increases across our state and country and we have taken in your feedback, a decision has been made to update the greater Scarborough Public Schools community about positive cases that have transpired in the last 14 days on a weekly basis, similar to the communication you received on Tuesday. This will take the place of sometimes daily notifications that have gone out to everyone anytime there is a case at an individual site. In all of the cases being reported to you here today, no school close contacts were identified, whereas schools were closed from 12.22.2020 to 1.5.2021.

Positive Cases for Persons Connected to SPS in the Last 14 days (since 12.26.2020)

Scarborough High School - 6 cases
Scarborough Middle School - 2 cases
Wentworth School - 1 case
Pleasant Hill - 0 cases
Eight Corners - 1 case
Blue Point - 1 case
District level - 1 case

We will continue to notify staff and families of positive cases as they occur in individual buildings or sites, via communication from building principals. All school level communications in regards to COVID will be uploaded on our district communications webpage as they occur for those of you who want to be informed more than once a week.

Cumberland County is no longer in the green category (relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread), but are now in the yellow category which suggests that our county has an elevated risk of COVID-19. This also means that all "in-person" athletics and student activities (afterschool programs) are currently postponed. Club Advisors and Coaches are working to stay connected to students remotely. As a reminder, color category data are publicly posted on the Maine CDC website. The next assessment for color coding will take place on January 15.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to be diligent in reinforcing a culture of compliance among our students and families. Taking the necessary precautions to protect the health and safety of our school community is our top priority. **Please continue to reach out to your school nurse if your student tests**

positive and share any information about contact that may have been had with anyone affiliated with Scarborough Public Schools, even if that contact occurred outside of school.

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

It has been wonderful to have everyone back from the holidays and my hope is that each of you had an opportunity to find joy during this special time of year. Whether it is spending time with your friends or family, it is a time of year where we can pause and reflect on all the wonderful things we are grateful for.

As we are approaching our halfway point with this school year, I think collectively we have learned and gained some experiences with COVID-19 that should position us well as we enter the second half of the school year. I am most delighted that next week our school nurses, occupational therapists and physical therapists have been selected to have the vaccination. There is light at the end of the tunnel knowing the vaccination will be soon upon us and eventually we anticipate more vaccinations will be available to all of our employees. That being said, Cumberland County remains a "yellow" county meaning our county has an elevated risk of COVID-19. The next color code update is scheduled for Friday, January 15th.

As a school system we work hard to further our learning knowing that professional development time for our employees is an important way to stay current with teaching and learning. Recently, our ongoing efforts to be involved with Maine's Cultural Competence Institute has been a remarkable success. With 42 representatives from our school system, along with 422 educators across the state, we are grateful to have the opportunity to further our knowledge with developing a deep understanding of creating a culture of inclusion, how to continue developing a sustainable practice for diversity and equity and inclusion in each of our schools. This 8 month series of 90 minutes of professional development modules has been well received and is providing practical skills as we continue to plan for racial equity and justice work.

Lastly, I am sure each of us are continuing to process the recent acts of domestic terrorism on the United States Capitol in Washington DC. I know how disturbing and unquestionably difficult it is for each of us to watch. My heartfelt appreciation goes to all knowing that our youth and others understand there are better ways to deal with conflict, and peaceful transitions of power needs to continue.

Stay well and thank you again for all that you do for your amazing children. We are forever indebted for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Sanford Prince

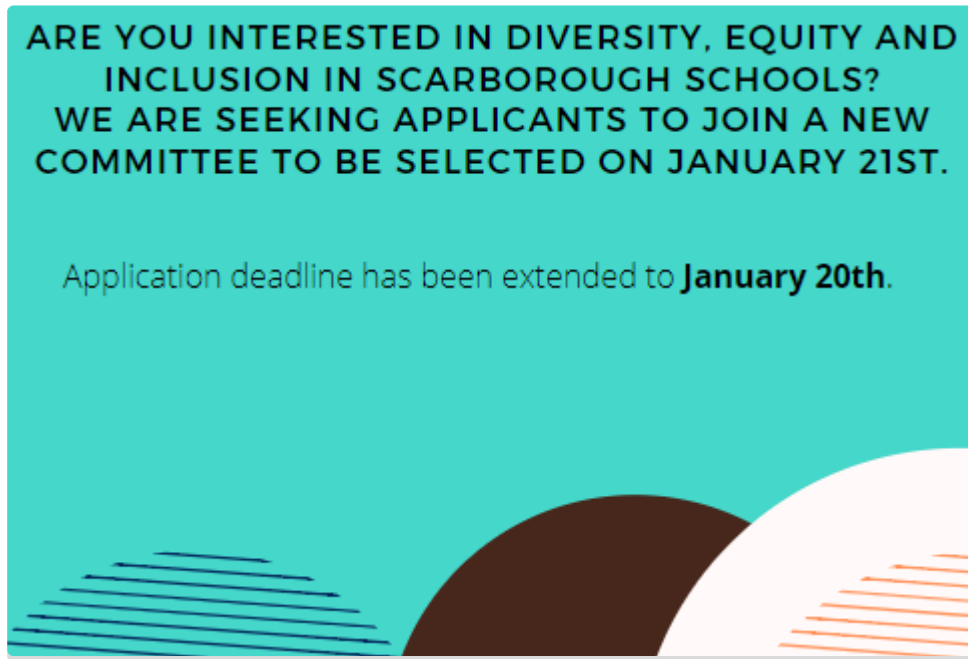
Parent Resources in Light of Recent Events

Here are some resources that we hope are helpful to you:

- [Explaining the News to Our Kids](#): Common Sense Media
- [How to Talk to Children About Difficult News](#): American Psychological Association



- [When Bad Things Happen](#): Tips for parents and educators on talking to kids about the unthinkable and inevitable events in life



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Dear Scarborough Community,

The Board of Education continues to seek applicants for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and is extending the application deadline to Wednesday, January 20th to ensure anyone interested has an opportunity to participate in this important work. [Here](#) is the link to the original request with the details and application. Our goal is to form a committee that will advocate for our diverse district, including but not limited to, socioeconomic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin and disability status. Prior experience and/or expertise is not a requirement for participation. Please consider applying for this committee and helping our district identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Please email the School Board with any questions at boe@scarboroughschools.org.

Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)

Be sure to check out the revised school calendar that was approved by the School Board at their December 17th meeting. The most significant change is the continuation of 1/2 remote learning days (AM) for students and 1/2 professional development time (PM) for staff for the remainder of the school year. We will NOT be reverting back to Late Start Wednesdays in January 2021 as the earlier approved calendar showed.

- **January 16** - Martin Luther King Day - No school
- **January 21** - School Board Workshop



Need a Book for A Young Person?

Some suggestions from experts and expert parents, just in time for the holiday season. Follow [this link](#) to view a list of titles or click on the image to the left.

Fully Remote Preparedness Plans

Linked [here](#), you will find an overview to Scarborough Public Schools Fully Remote Preparedness Plan, which was shared with the School Board at their December 3, 2020 meeting. Although our goal is to maintain in person learning to the greatest extent possible, there needs to be adequate staffing to facilitate in person learning.



SPS District Email Newsletter Signup

Share the news! Please let any community members, who do not currently have students enrolled in a Scarborough School, know that they too can stay in touch with the latest happenings in the schools and the district. By simply going to the SPS website and selecting the "District Communications" tab on the left, they can enter their name and email address and we will send along our weekly news to them. *If you have a student(s) in the district and you are already receiving our newsletter - no need to sign up (if you do, you will receive duplicate newsletters from us).*

- Schools
 - Board of Education
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 - Curriculum & Assessment
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 - Facilities
 - Information Technology
 - Nutrition Program
 - Health Services
 - Transportation
 - District Communications**
 - Parent Information
 - Student Registration
 - Student Transfer Request
 - Emergency Plan
 - RevTrak Online Payments
 - Anti-Bullying Information
 - 5210 Let's Go!
 - Common Sense Media
 - Community Bulletin Board
 - Employment Opportunities
 - Education Foundation
 - Scarborough School Business Partnership
 - Administrator Recertification

This page of our website will be used to keep staff, students and families up-to-date on all district communications. All of the weekly District Newsletters will be archived here for easy access. We will also post any other important communications on this page.

Recent SPS District Newsletters

[October 16, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) Ok - Oct 16, 2020, 3:19 PM by Kelly Johnston (v.1)
This edition contains some great news regarding student meals for the 2020-2021 school year as well as some important updates on upcoming iReady testing for students.

[October 8, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) Ok - Oct 9, 2020, 11:07 AM by Kelly Johnston (v.1)
This edition reminds us of the difference between "isolation" and "quarantine" - very important information.

[Critical Update - October 4, 2020](#) Ok - Oct 5, 2020, 7:44 AM by Kelly Johnston (v.1)
Case of COVID-19 detected at Scarborough Middle School.

[October 2, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) Ok - Oct 2, 2020, 3:53 PM by Kelly Johnston (v.1)
Some very important information in the "Curriculum Updates" in this edition - including an invitation to participate in a webinar addressing anxiety: on November 4 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm a live webinar event titled, "NOW What? Helping Children (and Parents)."

[September 11, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) Ok - Sep 29, 2020, 12:09 PM by Kelly Johnston (v.1)
Highlights of this newsletter include - information for ordering FREE student breakfasts and lunches, the required and daily Student Health Self Assessment questions and updated materials on Face Covering Requirements.

Showing 5 files from page [Archived SPS Newsletters](#).

SPS District Email Newsletter Signup

To receive the weekly SPS District Newsletter, please sign up using the form below. Note: If you have a student in the Scarborough Public School system and are already receiving the weekly district newsletter, you do not need to sign up using the form below.

Signup Form

Name

Email Address *



Health & Safety

Please make sure you review [the UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment](#) questions EVERY DAY before sending your child off to school.

TOGETHER, we can make our schools as safe as possible!

COVID-19 Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever (100.4 and above*) or used any fever reducing medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick with any of the most common symptoms of Covid, had vomiting/diarrhea, or felt unwell? (see symptom list to the right)

YES =



Have you been a close contact of a person with Covid in the past 14 days?

YES =



Have you traveled outside of the state in the past 14 days?

YES =



Contact Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Updated 10.9.20



Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever (100.4°F/ 38 °C or greater)*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/ 38°C regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal).

Maine Education

Links to Our Schools



Blue Point



Eight Corners



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

Services & Information

[Spec. Services](#) | Alison Marchese, amarchese@scarboroughschools.org
[Transportation](#) | Sarah Redmond, sredmond@scarboroughschools.org
[Food Services](#) | Peter Esposito, pesposito@scarboroughschools.org
[Athletics & Activities](#) | Mike LeGage, mlegage@scarboroughschools.org
[Curriculum](#) | Monique Culbertson, mculbertson@scarboroughschools.org
[Community Services](#) | Todd Souza, tsouza@scarboroughmaine.org





Tech Support


For technology assistance with SPS student laptops, please send a message to techsupport@scarboroughschools.org and someone from Technology will be in touch to assist you.



Scarborough Schools

 Facebook  @scarbmeschools

 259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ...  (207) 730-4100

 scarboroughschools.org

