

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - March 11, 2022

Message from the Superintendent

March 4, 2022

Scarborough Schools Community,



Last night, the Board of Education voted to make masks optional for students and staff in all Scarborough School buildings beginning on Wednesday March 9th, 2022. This approved motion is consistent with updated Maine CDC/DHHS/DOE guidance on masking in schools that was announced earlier this week through a press release from Governor Mills. It is also consistent with guidance and county metrics released from the [US CDC](#), which has Cumberland County's community level now listed as medium (yellow).

Between now and March 9th, we will be preparing for this change and ensuring we have a supply of KN95 or equivalent well-fitting masks on hand for any staff member or student who requests one. Pooled testing in all schools will continue and we will continue following the Standard Operating Procedure for any positive cases: a positive test will require a five day quarantine from the date of symptom onset or from the date of the positive test with masking required for an additional five (5) days after the release from quarantine and a return to school (days 6-10). Our staff and leadership will be doing everything we can to support our community with this transition from an indoor mask requirement to a mask optional policy.


We acknowledge and celebrate the hard work from staff, students, families, and our community in successfully returning our students to fully in-person learning, starting with our Fall 2021 Reopening Plan. Over the course of the school year, we have responded to changes in guidance and continued to do our best to keep everyone healthy and safe. We recognize and appreciate everyone in the Scarborough community for how they have implemented effective mitigation strategies over the last two years, and continue to support one another across our schools and town.

Kind Regards,
Geoff Bruno

Become a Substitute!

The Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine have partnered together to promote more individuals to become substitutes by offering **full reimbursement for the fees** associated with fingerprinting and background checks as an incentive. Please consider this opportunity if you have time to support our students in this way.

A Call to Action: Our Schools Need YOU!



Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine are partnering to call on Maine businesses, leaders and citizens to become guest school staff members. It's time to lean in!

EDUCATE MAINE

Maine's schools have been safely open for business, ensuring that students have access whenever possible to high quality, in-person learning.

The statewide surge of COVID-19 has increased school staffing shortages, and many schools have had to make emergency and disruptive pivots to remote learning, simply because they do not have enough adults to ensure that schools can operate safely and effectively.

WE NEED YOU to be a guest school staff member.

What is a Guest school staff member? Guest school staff members are substitute staff who are supporting or filling in for bus drivers, playground monitors, food service workers, teachers and support staff. Most are daylong positions, some are hourly, but even one day of substituting can make the difference, keeping a school open for students!

How?

It's a simple process. Go to this [website](#), and follow the 9 steps for choosing where you would like to help, applying, and receiving the required training and background clearance for working in a school. Check it out: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/substitute>


What does it cost?

Nothing but a little time. It will take about one hour to fill out and submit the needed applications, and a \$15 application fee and \$55 fingerprinting fee will be charged, but this **WILL BE REIMBURSED!!** Getting fingerprinted will take a bit more time, but you can schedule an appointment that is convenient for you.

Why?

You can make a difference. You will be a hero, supporting your schools and ensuring that public education is available for all of Maine's children. You can work with the school district(s) of your choice, may be able to choose when and where you can help, and you will be inspired by the energy and miracles that fill our schools.

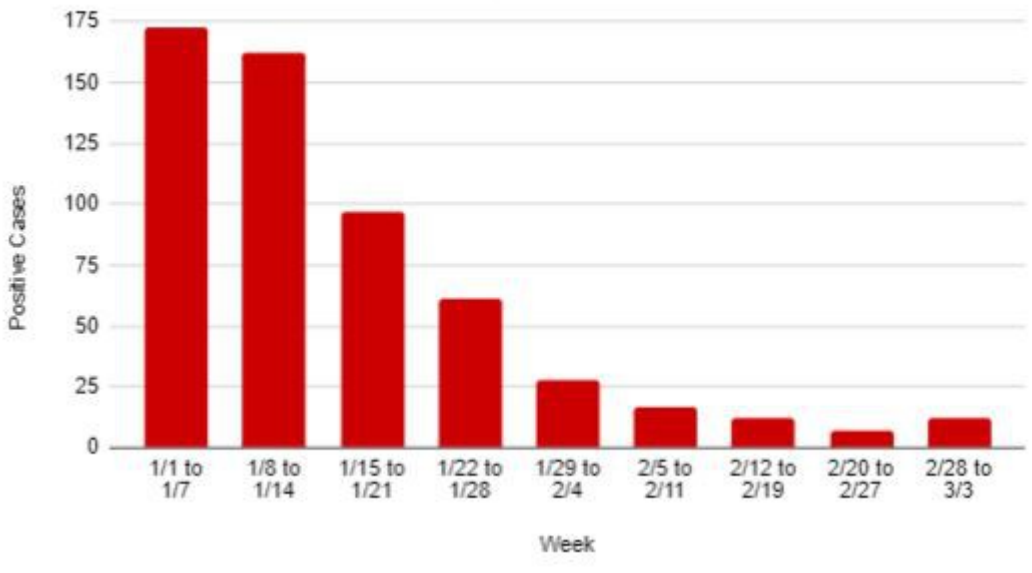
We will be using social media platforms to recognize our heroes and the organizations who are supporting Maine schools. Please join us- and be recognized as among those who are making a difference.





The [Scarborough Public Schools Website](#) has added updated information on COVID-19 Positive Cases. We will continue to update information on the website each week, so please visit the link above for the most recent information by school. Below is a district snapshot for this week.

District Wide Positive Cases by Week



Resources for Parents

- [Gratitude is More Than Just Saying Thank You](#)
- [How Parents Can Support their Transgender Teens](#)
- [Parenting, Media and Everything in Between](#)



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

- **March 14** - FY23 Budget Session 1 - Wentworth Learning Commons - 4:30PM - 7:00PM
- **March 15** - FY23 Budget Session 2 - Town Hall - Council Chambers - 8:30AM - 11:00AM
- **March 17** - School Board Meeting
- **March 18** - Staff Development Day - No school for students

Links to Our Schools



Blue Point



Eight Corners



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

Health & Safety

Please make sure you review the **UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment** questions for 2021-22 below **EVERY DAY** before sending your child off to school.

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



Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever* or taken fever reducing medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick, had Vomiting/diarrhea, fever*, sore throat, new cough, or felt unwell?

YES =



Have you been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure?

YES =



Most Common Symptoms of COVID-19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Stomach pain
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Rash
Swelling or redness of hands/feet
Red eyes/eye drainage
Congestion/runny nose

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

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above.

Symptoms of illness can have many causes. Please keep your student home and contact your school nurse or primary care provider if your student is unwell. Students who present with symptoms while in school will be dismissed to home at the discretion of the nurse.

*A fever is 100.4°F/38°C or greater.



Updated 10.19.2021

[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

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 scarboroughschools.org