



RSU #23
Old Orchard Beach School Department
40 E. Emerson Cummings Blvd
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064
(207) 934-5751 Fax (207) 934-1917
www.rsu23.org

Date: September 4, 2020

Subject: RSU 23 Health & Safety Information & Updates

Dear RSU 23 Students & Families:

In advance of our first week of school scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 8 there is some important health and safety information to share with all RSU 23 students and families. While this memo isn't designed to be all encompassing, the objective is to provide everyone with the necessary information to attend our first week of school safely and with the focus of public health at the center of our work. Additional health and safety information will be provided throughout the first week and there will be many more opportunities to ask questions and hear from your RSU 23 Health Services Team. Prior to sending your child to school next week please review the following health and safety guidelines and contact us with any questions.

YORK COUNTY YELLOW DESIGNATION: Today, the Mill's administration and the Maine CDC designated York County as yellow which by definition means that York County has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that a hybrid instruction model should be adopted. As you know, RSU 23 will be utilizing our Yellow Hybrid instructional plan until December 31st unless we are designated RED and need to be in a remote learning model.

SCHEDULE: Tuesday, September 8 will be a step-up transition day for students in PreK, K, 3, 6, & 9. Wednesday, September 9 there will be no school for students. Thursday, September 10 we will welcome all students back PreK-12.

RSU 23 2020 RETURN TO SCHOOL STUDENT & FAMILY HANDBOOK: In addition to our district-wide reopening plan we have also developed a 2020-21 Return-to School handbook for your review with your children. This handbook has been linked in below and will be reviewed by all students during the first week of school.

➤ [**Linked: RSU 23 Return-To-School Student Handbook**](#)

RSU 23 SYMPTOM SCREENING: Using the [**DOE Pre-Screening Tool**](#) for School attendance (Embedded Below), all RSU 23 staff and students will conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to attending school.



RSU #23
Old Orchard Beach School Department
40 E. Emerson Cummings Blvd
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064
(207) 934-5751 Fax (207) 934-1917
www.rsu23.org

Maine DOE Guidelines: *Symptom Screening at Home Before Coming to School (for all Staff and Students)* - Students (parents/caregivers) and staff members must conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to boarding buses or entering school buildings each day. Any person showing symptoms must report their symptoms and not be present at school.

Before school each morning answer the four questions. **IF** you answer yes to any of the 4 questions attending school is prohibited. If you have any Signs/Symptoms of COVID 19 you will be asked to consult your physician/provider. They will assist you with management, treatment, and testing criteria. You may be calling your doctor more than once. They are aware and are ready.

If you have any signs/symptoms of illness related to COVID 19 while at school, you will be sent home immediately and asked to consult your physician/provider. If you are tested for COVID 19, you will not be able to attend school while awaiting results.

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? (see symptom list to the right) YES = 

Have you been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19? 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. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Updated 8.3.20 

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:
Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever (100.4 or greater)*
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 regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal).



RSU #23
Old Orchard Beach School Department
40 E. Emerson Cummings Blvd
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064
(207) 934-5751 Fax (207) 934-1917
www.rsu23.org

MASKS & FACE COVERINGS: As the primary route of transmission for COVID-19 is respiratory, masks/face coverings are among the most critical components of risk reduction. Face coverings help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people or surfaces when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. All RSU 23 employees and students will be provided with Maine CDC approved face coverings.

1. All students & staff are required to wear a mask/face covering.
 - a. Face coverings should cover your nose and mouth, and fit snugly against the sides of your face. Cloth face coverings should have multiple layers of cloth.
2. Students age five and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Masks are recommended for children ages two to four, when developmentally appropriate.
3. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with documented medical or behavioral challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings.
 - a. Students needing an accommodation should discuss this with their school nurse
4. Masks/face coverings may be removed during mealtime and outdoor activities where students and staff can maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others and have ready access to put them back on as needed when activity stops.
5. The use of masks with exhalation valves is highly discouraged as the valve can allow a concentrated stream of exhaled air containing droplets, putting others nearby at transmission risk. Gaiter style “buffs” are not currently approved face-coverings in RSU 23 .
6. Reusable masks/face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily. RSU 23 will be providing a washing service for all school issued face-coverings.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AT RSU 23:

Physical distancing is another important practice that helps mitigate transmission of the virus. Schools should aim for six feet of distance between individuals where feasible. At the same time, a minimum physical distance of three feet between students is adequate when combined with the other measures outlined by the Maine DOE. Because of the reduced susceptibility in children and lower apparent rates of



RSU #23
Old Orchard Beach School Department
40 E. Emerson Cummings Blvd
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064
(207) 934-5751 Fax (207) 934-1917
www.rsu23.org

transmission, establishing a minimum physical distance of three feet is informed by evidence and balances the lower risk of COVID-19 transmission and the overarching benefits of in-person school.

In closing, RSU 23 is here to work alongside you and support the successful return-to-school for all of our RSU 23 school community. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remains paramount in our decision making process and we recognize the challenges that lie ahead. The impact COVID-19 will have on our public health and school systems in the upcoming school year is yet to be fully understood. Regardless, our team will continue to monitor, adapt, and revise plans to accommodate for a range of public health outcomes and we will remain ready to support you wherever and whenever we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Suttie".

John Suttie
RSU 23 Superintendent of Schools