



MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 42
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Dear Parents:

Our focus and priority this year is to keep students in school as much as possible because in-person instruction is the most effective teaching model. As a result of this focus, I am writing to inform you that the MSAD 42 Board of Directors has approved the use of pooled testing for students and staff in the district.

The Maine CDC and Department of Education (DOE) have implemented a pooled PCR testing program, available to public and private schools. Participation in pooled testing by students and staff is optional. If parents wish to have their child participate, they will be given directions in the next few weeks on how to enroll their child in the program.

Pooled testing involves mixing several test samples together in a “batch” or “pool” and then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test for detection of SARS-CoV-2.

If a pooled test result is negative, then all individuals within that pool are presumed negative and may remain in school. If a pooled test result is positive, then all individuals in the pool must be retested individually. No matter a school’s pooled testing participation status, in the event of a positive case, contact tracing and isolation for the positive case still apply.

Students, teachers, or staff who test positive for COVID-19 shall isolate until they meet the U.S. CDC criteria for release for isolation. Close contacts must be notified for every COVID-19 case in students or staff. The close contact definition is exposure within 6 ft for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period or any direct physical contact.

Close contacts must quarantine for 10 days from COVID-19 exposure from school and school activities **except** if at least one of the following conditions applies to the close contact:

1. The close contact (staff or student) is vaccinated and if the exposure occurred more than 14 days after the individual’s completion of the vaccine series. If the exposure occurred after vaccination but prior to the 14 days, the close contact must quarantine for the full time period: or
2. The close contact (staff or student) has a previous positive COVID-19 test result (molecular or antigen) collected within 90 days of the exposure: or
- 3. The close contact (staff or student) participates in weekly school pooled testing and the exposure was a school exposure.**

Although pooled testing participants do not need to quarantine from school/school activities if exposure occurs at school, they must follow Maine CDC guidelines for community exposure.

For more information on pooled testing, short videos/webinars may be accessed at:
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/toolkit/webinars>

We will begin pooled testing after harvest break. More information on enrolling your child for pooled testing will be available shortly. Further questions should be directed to Poppy York, District Nurse; she can be reached during regular school hours at 425-2811 or 429-8514.

Thank you,

Elaine Boulier, C. A. S.
Superintendent of Schools