



November 17, 2020

Dear Erskine Academy Students, Families and Staff,

Erskine Academy considers the health and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff to be of the utmost importance, which prompts the sending of this letter for your information.

Another individual associated with Erskine Academy has tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Notably, our three cases to date are unrelated, and each transmission has been traced to a community setting or event outside of the school. We have had no cases of in-school transmission. However, out of an abundance of caution, and given the frequency of confirmed positive cases in our area, **Erskine Academy will transition to fully-remote learning (red) beginning Wednesday, November 18, 2020, with a planned return to hybrid learning (yellow) on Monday, November 30, 2020.**

*While fully remote, please note:*

- Students with scheduled in-person appointments for Wednesday, November 18, should reschedule or conduct their sessions remotely.
- Students needing school-issued technology for remote learning should contact the school.
- The school will remain open and partially staffed during regular operating hours, 7:00am-3:00pm. If possible, please call in advance if you need access to the school.
- The first trimester is extended and now closes on Friday, December 4.
- Upon returning to hybrid learning, students should not attend in person if they have any covid symptoms within 24 hours of the reentry date. Contact School Nurse Tara Oxley for guidance related to symptoms.
- Given the state's current travel restrictions, any student who travels outside of Maine for the Thanksgiving break should notify the school.

If you/your student is identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive, you will be contacted directly by the school, and possibly the Maine CDC, with additional guidance. The school will notify the parents/guardians of close contacts through SchoolMessenger--text, voicemail, and/or email--within approximately 24 hours.

We remind students, parents, and staff to please continue daily monitoring for covid-related symptoms (listed below). Call a health care provider if symptoms start. Before going to a health care facility for testing or consultation, it is advised that you call the facility ahead of time and follow their instructions.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. It can be more severe in adults 60 years and older and in those with underlying conditions. The virus mainly spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and an uninfected person breathes in the virus. Signs and symptoms include:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

Maine CDC recommends measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures include proper handwashing with soap and warm water, which is especially important after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. When soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Questions for the school can be directed to School Nurse Tara Oxley by calling (207) 445-2962 or emailing [toxley@erskine247.com](mailto:toxley@erskine247.com). For general COVID-19 questions, dial 211 (or 1-866-811-5695). You can also text your ZIP code to 898-211 or email [info@211maine.org](mailto:info@211maine.org). Call a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at [www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

Wishing you good health and wellness,

Michael J. McQuarrie  
Headmaster