April 14, 2021

Dear Erskine Academy Students, Families, and Staff:

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

This letter informs you that two individuals associated with Erskine Academy have tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). It is possible that staff or students came in contact with these individuals and may be exposed to the virus. **Therefore, we are informing you out of an abundance of caution.** Please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms. 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.

Due to the circumstances of these cases and the manageable number of students and staff identified as close contacts, the school will maintain its current hybrid teaching and learning program.

If you/your student is identified as a close contact of either of these individuals, you will be contacted directly by the school, and possibly the Maine CDC, with additional guidance. **The school will notify the parent/guardians of close contacts through SchoolMessenger--text, voicemail, and/or email--by approximately 5:00 p.m.**

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 should be directed to School Nurse Tara Oxley by calling (207) 445-2962 or emailing 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. Call a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Wishing you safe and well,

Michael J. McQuarrie
Headmaster