



September 9, 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 several individuals associated with Erskine Academy have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of our school year. It is possible that staff or students came in contact with these individuals and may have been exposed to the virus. Therefore, we are informing the entire school community of these occurrences 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.

Given the Maine Center for Disease Control's (MCDC) current guidance, Erskine Academy will continue to operate full in-person learning. Erskine Academy adopted mandatory masking and proper distancing as part of this year's school opening plan. These mitigation efforts allow close contacts to remain in school and in their classroom for in-person learning. However, given the potential lack of layered prevention strategies outside of our school community, the Maine CDC stipulates those identified as close contacts must quarantine from all public areas and after school activities such as athletics, dances, and other after school functions. Please be aware, the Maine CDC further clarifies that all identified close contacts who have been fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantining unless they are exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms.

The school will notify the parent/guardians of close contacts through Erskine's messaging system--text, voicemail, and/or email--within approximately 24 hours.

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

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.

Kind regards,

Michael J. McQuarrie
Headmaster