



Regional School Unit 5 Durham • Freeport • Pownal

"To inspire and support every learner by challenging minds, building character, sparking creativity, and nurturing passions."

Becky Foley, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Ann Cromer, Director of Finance & Human Resources

Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Bonnie Violette, Ph.D., Director of Instructional Support

Dear Staff & Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I know there has been much anticipation about the level in which we would return to school. Safety for our staff and students is always our first priority.

Today the Department of Education (DOE) issued a media release which indicates that all counties in Maine are currently in the green level for the reopening of schools. The DOE is using a metric that includes multiple measures primarily focused on infection and transmission rates. These metrics will be released biweekly to help inform districts in making determinations about the level in which to operate their schools. The DOE emphasized that even though the DOE metric indicates that schools may begin in the green level, schools must also comply with the *Maine CDC Safety Requirements*. The requirements include the following:

1. Symptom Screenings Before Coming to School
2. Physical Distancing and School Facilities
3. Masks/Face Coverings
4. Hand Hygiene
5. Personal Protective Equipment
6. Return to School After Illness

Schools must opt for hybrid (yellow) or remote (red) instruction if its buildings or readiness cannot adhere to these requirements. Due to the CDC requirement regarding physical distancing, I will be recommending to the RSU 5 Board of Directors that schools begin in the yellow level which is the hybrid model. The number of students and school/classroom spaces in each of our schools does not allow for the 3-foot physical distancing required by the Maine CDC if all of the children are present at the same time. In terms of the other *Maine CDC Safety Requirements*, RSU5 has ordered the necessary masks/face coverings and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to implement the other requirements.

I have requested that the RSU5 Board of Directors meet one week earlier than originally scheduled to discuss and vote on my recommendation. There will be a Board meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 6:30. During this discussion, there will be time for public comment about reopening our schools. The **DRAFT** of the RSU5 Reopening Plan can be accessed at this [link](#). The final version of the plan will be presented to the Board on August 5th.

I appreciate your understanding, patience, and support during these challenging times. RSU5 is fortunate to have families and staff who are steadfastly dedicated to our children and their education!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Becky J. Foley".

Becky Foley
Superintendent in RSU5