

Dear Staff, Students, and Families:

I am writing to let you know that the School Board voted (6-0) this evening to highly recommend masks in our schools if deemed to be in outbreak status by the MCDC. This is a change from 5/10/22 when they had previously voted to require masks in a school that was determined in an outbreak. I invite you to watch this meeting when you have the opportunity to hear their individual reasons for supporting this approach. We recognize that many of you will appreciate masks remaining a family/individual decision and others will be disappointed with the Board decision. Let's continue to try to support each other even when we disagree.

Further, CEHS was determined by the MCDC to be in outbreak status beginning on October 26th. We were informed of this decision by the MCDC today. Outbreak status is defined by the MCDC as greater than or equal to 15% absenteeism among students/staff in a school in a single day where the majority of those absences are due to a specific illness. Currently there are 16 + Covid cases at CEHS. To leave outbreak status a school needs to have fourteen straight calendar days with less than 15% absenteeism among students/staff due to COVID-19 cases and/or Covid-like illness.

We will be closing CEHS on Friday (10/28/2022), to allow our custodial crew to conduct a deep cleaning of the building. Due to the late nature of this announcement, there will not be virtual classes on Friday and there will be no indoor afternoon/evening events. Athletic Director Thoreck will be communicating with coaches about the plan for games/practices on Friday and this weekend. Pond Cove and CEMS will have in-person school on Friday (10/28/2022).

Staff, however, are expected to work during the school day. Principal Springer will reach out to staff about the expectations for the day.

We will continue to disinfect high touch surfaces and encourage hand washing. We also strongly recommend families and individuals to consider wearing masks while indoors at school until we are through this spike in illness. We do appreciate that students and staff are staying home while sick. School staff will also work hard to support students upon their return to school. While we cannot control what happens in the greater community, we do hope voluntary mask wearing from our students and staff will help curb the spread of the various viruses and help keep CEHS open and students and staff able to attend school and the various extracurricular events coming up. We have masks available for any individual that wants one in school.

Questions for the school can be directed to the appropriate school nurse listed below. Please call a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

PCES - 207-799- 7339 fax 207-799-8171 Erin Taylor	CEMS - 207-799-8176 fax 207-767-0832 Jill Young	CEHS - 207-799-3309 fax 207-767-8050 Karen Jenkins
---	---	--

With Appreciation,
Chris
Chris Record, Ph.D.
Superintendent
crecord@capeelizabethschools.org