

# MSAD 6 Pandemic Plan 2020-2021

(Draft: Updated 7/22/20)

This pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption to our students and traditional school. As we consider how to safely return students and staff to schools this fall, the following questions have been top of mind: When to reopen, for whom, and with what health and safety precautions in place?

MSAD 6 is developing a flexible learning plan that will govern how school and educational programming will operate based upon the external conditions that exist across the State of Maine and Cumberland and York Counties. This plan is purposefully “fluid.” The MSAD 6 plan is divided into three core levels; red, yellow and green.



## Flexible Learning Plan Outline with Levels

**Level 1 (Red)- All Instruction is Remote (Distance Learning)** At this level the Governor has issued a “stay-at-home” order, and/or the Department of Education and the Maine CDC are recommending a school closure. During Level 1, only essential workers are allowed in school facilities and all instruction will be remote in nature.

**Level 2 (Yellow)- A Hybrid Schedule of both Remote and In-Person Instruction** At this level, the Governor has modified or loosened the “stay-at-home” order and in-person school is permitted with specific conditions provided by the Governor, the Maine Department of Education, or the Maine CDC. Under these circumstances, groups of students will alternate between two days in school and two days of remote/independent learning, with all students remote on Fridays. The purpose of this plan is to limit the number of students in the buildings at one time to reduce the risk of exposure.

**Level 3 (Green)- All Students Attend School** At this level, there are no “stay-at-home” orders in place and there are only limited restrictions on school activities and gatherings. Even though all students will be permitted to attend school, MSAD 6 may still employ procedures (face coverings, etc.) and limit some activities to reduce the risk of exposure.

## Factors Considered When Making Decisions

The MSAD 6 Administration, in consultation with the MSAD 6 Health Team will review data provided by several agencies including the Governor’s Office, the Maine CDC, the Maine School Management Association, and the American Association of Pediatrics in order to determine the flexible learning level. MSAD 6 is planning for the likelihood that the District will have periods of time in all three levels during the 2020-2021 school year.

**Decisions about whether or not to operate in Level 1, 2, or 3 at the start of the school year will be made in late July or early August.** At this time, the most likely scenario is for school to begin at Level 2 (yellow) for the month of September. The District administration plans to review data and recommendations to adjust levels as needed. Plans may change with little advance notice.



#### **Level 1 (Red) Plan Specifics for the 2020-2021 School Year**

All students will be taught via remote instruction. Staff will work remotely from home unless their job assignment requires them to be on site in the buildings. Staff who wish to come into the buildings to gather or prepare materials for teaching must get permission in advance from their building administrator.

The goal is to increase the amount and quality of synchronous instruction that will be provided on a set schedule and use a common platform (Seesaw K-5, Google Classroom 6-12.) Professional development will be provided to assist teachers as needed. Pre-COVID grading will be in place.



#### **Level 2 (Yellow) Plan Specifics for the 2020-2021 School Year**

##### **Overall Schedule**

Students at each grade level will be divided into two groups. One group will attend school on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other group will attend school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. When the student is not attending school, independent learning opportunities will be provided. Those will be in the form of written assignments and online support. There will not be virtual contact with the classroom teacher on the two independent learning days. All students will be remote on Fridays, and teachers will be available for support via virtual meetings, email, etc. Plan specifics may vary depending on the school and grade level.

## Level 2 (Yellow) Sample Schedule

| BE Group  | Scot Group   |
|---|--|
| Monday- Attend School   | Monday- Independent Learning Day   |
| Tuesday- Attend School  | Tuesday- Independent Learning Day  |
| Wednesday- Independent Learning Day   | Wednesday- Attend School   |
| Thursday- Independent Learning Day  | Thursday- Attend School  |
| Friday- Remote Learning from Home<br>(Teachers available for virtual meetings and instruction.) | Friday- Remote Learning from Home<br>(Teachers available for virtual meetings and instruction) |



## Level 3 (Green) Plan Specifics for the 2020-2021 School Year

This level means that all students are allowed to return to in-person instruction. All efforts to maintain health and safety procedures used in Level 2 will continue. With all students in the buildings, it will be more difficult to maintain six foot distances, so extra emphasis will be placed on cleaning procedures and the use of face coverings. Building administrators will make determinations regarding after school building use and school visitors.

### Health Screening

Parents will be expected to assess the health of their children each day and keep students home if they are not feeling well or displaying symptoms of COVID-19. When students arrive at school, staff will be screening students at the beginning of each day. Any students who display symptoms or do not pass the screening will be assessed by the school nurse in the health center. Students who are not feeling well or displaying symptoms will be sent home. At this time, the MSAD 6 Health Team has determined that it isn't prudent to take the temperatures of every student each day in the building.

#### At Home Health Screening:

- ❖ Take your student's temperature. If their temperature is 100.4<sup>F</sup> or greater, they are to stay home.
- ❖ If your student has any **ONE (1)** of the following symptoms, they are to stay home.
  - Worsening cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Sore throat
  - Change or loss in smell or taste
  - Has an immediate family member who has **1** or more of the above symptoms **or** known close contact with anyone with COVID-19

## Transportation Plan

In Level 2 (yellow) students will be transported in smaller groups on buses so that social distancing can be maintained. Students will be asked to wear face coverings on the bus. The drivers and monitors will wear PPE and hand sanitizer will be available. All buses will be disinfected after every trip. Necessary route changes may result in longer bus rides for some students. Parents, who are able to, are encouraged to provide their own transportation on a regular schedule. High school students who are eligible to drive and park at school may do so.

## Face Coverings for Students

Cloth face coverings are a key component to opening school safely. The MSAD 6 Health Team used information provided by the Maine CDC and the American Association of Pediatrics when making this decision. In Level 2 (yellow) students will be asked to wear face coverings in common areas such as on buses, in group restrooms, and when traveling in the hallways. Regardless of age, students will have opportunities to take breaks from wearing a face covering when they are able to socially distance and be 6 feet away from others, as directed by the classroom teacher.

- Students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear a face covering in the classroom, on the bus, in common areas, in group bathrooms, and when within close proximity of other students. The focus in grades PK-5 will be more on maintaining hygienic practices in the classroom and teaching students how to learn and play together safely. Students will have opportunities to take breaks from wearing a face covering periodically throughout the day, as long as social distancing is maintained, as directed by the classroom teacher.
  - *For Example: A teacher will require the students to wear a face covering when sitting at a table in groups where students are 3 feet apart, but will allow students to take a break from wearing a face covering when students are sitting at individual desks that are six feet apart.*

## Classroom Precautions

In the classroom, additional precautions will be taken to minimize the risk of exposure to students and staff. In Level 2 (yellow) smaller groups of students will be assigned to classrooms so that their desks/workstations can be arranged to optimize social distancing. Teachers will modify seating at tables so that students have adequate space. Tables and desks will be wiped down routinely throughout the day and when new groups of students enter a room. Students will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when entering and before leaving the classroom. When weather permits, windows may be opened, and teachers are encouraged to bring students outside for portions of their instruction, when it is appropriate. Custodial staff will be using enhanced cleaning procedures throughout the building that includes fogging classrooms with disinfectant each night.

During breakfast and lunch, students will be socially distanced either by eating in the classroom or spaced six feet apart in the cafeteria. Food service practices have been adapted to reduce

the risk of exposure by pre-packaging meals when possible and removing self-service food bars.

During outdoor recess students will use hand sanitizer or wash hands before going outside and again when re-entering the building. Face coverings will be encouraged when students are on playground equipment or playing within close proximity of each other.

### **Protocol for Responding to Students or Staff Who Test Positive for COVID-19**

Whenever a school receives information that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the administration will work collaboratively with the Maine CDC to form an appropriate response. It is expected that there would be a school closure of 2-5 days for extreme cleaning and contact tracing and that some individuals would be required to quarantine.

### **Remote Learning Option**

A remote learning option will be available for families who do not feel comfortable sending their students to school at this time. The remote option will likely include a curriculum/instruction format that uses online tools. This will be supplemented with teacher/school staff support daily. Students can transition back to in-person instruction seamlessly at any time. The details will be shared once the plan is finalized.

### **More Details to Come**

The MSAD 6 Administration will continue to collaborate with teachers and staff to work out the many details needed to implement our flexible plan. Information will be provided to parents via our school messenger system.