

# Forest Hills Consolidated School

RSU 82 / MSAD # 12

Serving the Towns of Jackman & Moose River

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October 31, 2020

Good Morning,

In an effort to provide you with the most up to date information, I am writing to make you aware that the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services changed the color designation for Somerset County yesterday at noon. Somerset, Washington, and Waldo counties now all have a designation of “yellow.” Below is the information from the state which explains what schools should consider. We are already complying with these guidelines and will continue to do this. With the number of students attending Forest Hills, we are able to remain in person 5 days a week. During our yellow phase, we are implementing some minor changes within the school:

1. Minimum of 6 feet of physical distancing will be adhered to by students and staff.
2. Additional staff will be added to recess supervision to increase the ability to physically distance outside of the building.
3. Increase outside areas for recess.
4. All afterschool clubs and activities are postponed until further notice. This includes afterschool music lessons.
5. Should the need arise to make any further modifications, you will be notified.

*Under the “yellow” designation, which indicates an increased (moderate) level of community risk, schools may consider additional precautions, such as limiting numbers of people in school buildings at the same time, suspending extracurricular or co-curricular activities including competitions between schools, limiting interaction through cohorting, or other measures based on the unique needs of each school community.*

*These designations are made out of an abundance of caution and for the consideration of school administrative units in their decisions to deliver instruction.*

*It is essential that school districts across the State of Maine continue to implement plans that adhere to the six requirements for the Health Advisory System. These categorizations are defined as follows:*

- *RED: Categorization as “red” suggests that the county has a high risk of COVID-19 spread and that in-person instruction is not advisable.*
- *YELLOW: Categorization as “yellow” suggests that the county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider additional precautions and/or hybrid instructional models as a way to reduce the number of people in schools and classrooms at any one time.*
- *GREEN: Categorization as “green” suggests that the county has a relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider in-person instruction, as long as they are able to implement the required health and safety measures. Schools in a “green” county may need to use hybrid instruction models if there is insufficient capacity or other factors (facilities, staffing, geography/transportation, etc.) that may prevent full implementation of the health and safety requirements.*

Your support in all we are doing to remain open and educating our students in person is much appreciated.

Yours,

Thad Lacasse

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Thad Lacasse, Superintendent/Principal