

Regional School Unit 25

Return to School Fall 2022

The following represents the return to school plan for the fall of 2022. Given the nature and changing landscape associated with COVID 19 and its variants this continuum is presented to outline our educational delivery models in a manner that can anticipate possible scenarios.

Understanding conditions can change rapidly, It is the stated goal at the Federal, State and Local levels to maximize in person instruction for all students. It is the intent of this plan to deliver educational programming in person and that we continue to provide for the physical, social, and emotional health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors.

RSU 25 will use and implement the safety protocols as required by the State of Maine in a manner to maximize in person learning while being prepared to transition between levels relative to the prevalence of the virus in our State. Communication from the Maine Department of Education (7/15/21) indicates the State of Maine will be following the Federal CDC Guidance relative to COVID 19.

Currently, the Federal CDC describes the expectation of an individual with a COVID infection to isolate for 5 days and may return to school following the 5 day isolation period wearing a mask for an additional 5 days. Individuals who have been exposed to positive cases but not positive themselves are not required to isolate but should mask when in public for 10 days.

Regional School Unit 25's Continuum for Instructional Models

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3*
<p><u>In-Person Learning</u></p> <p><i>Retention of health & safety protocols</i></p> <p><i>Masks are optional for staff, students, & visitors</i></p> <p><i>Follow CDC Guidelines relative to safety precautions</i></p>	<p><u>Hybrid Learning</u></p> <p>Combination of In-Person Instruction and remote access</p> <p><i>School Schedule remains consistent</i></p> <p><i>Follow CDC Guidelines relative to safety precautions</i></p>	<p><u>Full Remote</u></p> <p><i>All educational programming is presented in a remote manner</i></p> <p><i>Staff will work in the school</i></p> <p><i>School Schedule remains consistent</i></p> <p><i>Follow CDC Guidelines relative to safety precautions</i></p>
<p>All programming is delivered to students in person</p> <p><i>(With accommodation for virtual learning to meet IEP or 504 plan or isolation because of covid infection)</i></p>	<p>Maximize in person learning, but expand remote class access</p> <p><i>(Remote access is not “ala carte” participation is for a set period of time and not a day to day option)</i></p>	<p>Full participation of students is expected</p> <p><i>(Remote access is not “ala carte” participation is for a set period of time and not a day to day option)Full</i></p>

Key Points for Each Level

Level 1 – In Person Instruction for All Students and Staff 5 Days Per Week

- Under this level, all students will return to school for In-Person instruction five days per week.
- **Masking will be optional but follow the CDC guidance relative to isolation and return to school.**
- All instructional programming will be delivered to students in-person.
- Unless medically necessary (documentation from a physician required), required by a student’s IEP/504 Plan, or due to required isolation or quarantine as a result of a positive COVID-19 case, virtual or remote learning will not be offered to students when in-person instruction is available.

Level 2 – Hybrid Combination of In-Person and Remote Learning

- Under this level, some students will receive in person instruction while others will receive their instruction via remote access.
- Hybrid models will be building level specific and follow the guidelines provided by the CDC

Level 3 – Full Remote Learning

****The Full Remote Scenario will be implemented by directive of the State Government and the DOE***

(local conditions may warrant remote learning by classroom or by building)

- Under this scenario, all students will receive their instruction through a Remote Instruction program based on the Remote Learning plan for their specific school. Remote learning may include synchronous learning (learning in real-time via technology), and/or asynchronous learning (pre-recorded lessons to be viewed and reviewed by students, work assigned to be completed, and by regularly scheduled class meetings, designated work time, staff office hours, etc.)
- Regardless of the learning continuum model in place or the mode of instruction being received by each student, curriculum standards will be the same for all students. There will be clear and consistent expectations for scheduling, instructional time, assessments, grading, attendance, and communication for all students.

Guidelines:

- Regional School Unit #25 will continue to operate at Level 1 - Full In-Person Learning. Hybrid Learning or Full Remote Learning will only take place with a significant increase in COVID cases or as directed by the Maine Department of Education and/or Department of Health and Human Services.
- Staff and students are asked to continue to monitor their health daily for COVID symptoms and to confer with their physician and to follow the most recent CDC guidelines.
- Any substantial increase or decrease in the number of COVID cases in our area may result in a change in the masking requirement and will be communicated as soon as possible. Attendance will be monitored daily and RSU 25 will follow the guidelines for communicable diseases.
- As an extension of the classroom, all co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will follow the guidelines imposed by the Maine Principals Association. Any substantial increase in the number of COVID cases in our area may result in a change in the requirements and will be implemented at the discretion of the Superintendent or by School Board action. Such a decision will be informed by guidance from the Maine Department of Education, Center for Disease Control, or Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible.
- We will follow the most up-to-date guidelines from CDC when dealing with any staff or student testing positive for COVID. Maine DHHS communicated July 15, 2021 they will be following the Federal CDC Guidelines relative to COVID 19. Like the Maine Standard Operating Procedures the Federal CDC Guidelines have been updated and will continue to be updated. The most current Federal CDC guidance may be viewed at:
- It is important to note that the Centers for Disease Control is indicating that vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cleaning and Disinfection

RSU 25 schools will be cleaned daily with an emphasis on classroom and learning spaces which will be disinfected daily after cleaning. Throughout the day high touch areas (entry doors, light switches, water fountains, etc. will be sanitized as often as possible.

RSU 25 buses will be sanitized, by the drivers after each run using sanitizing wipes.