Mt. Blue Regional School District 129 Seamon Road, Suite 2 Farmington, Maine 04938

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Health Notice #19

January 29, 2021

Dear RSU 9 Community,

Franklin County was designated as "yellow" today by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC). We wanted to share some additional details to help clarify what that means for the staff and students of RSU 9.

Language from the <u>Maine Department of Education Priority Notice</u> sent today:

The DHHS and Maine CDC continue to review evidence that indicates lower transmission of COVID-19 in schools compared to the general population...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.

Instructional Model:

Since RSU 9 schools have been implementing the hybrid learning model from the start of the school year, there will be no changes to our instructional model.

Athletics and Other Activities:

At their board meeting earlier this week, the RSU 9 Board of Directors voted to authorize Mt. Blue High School's winter athletics teams to move forward with their seasons and follow the new guidelines from the Maine Principals' Association in conjunction with the proposal from Maine School Superintendents Association. Our MBHS athletic director will be working closely with his colleagues from other schools regarding specific competitive events. The MBMS athletic director will coordinate activities as scheduled. In addition, extra-curricular activities and after-school academic support programming will continue to be offered on-site.

Staff and student adherence to our district COVID-19 protocols have worked incredibly well to maintain on-site learning. We appreciate the priority that all have placed on maintaining a healthy and safe work and learning environment. Given the current circumstances in our community, we ask that the same precautions be taken outside of schools in order to maintain our hybrid model of learning.

Thank you again to our staff members, students and families for your continued commitment to following our protocols in the interest of maximizing on site learning in our district schools.

Sincerely,

Monique Poulin
Interim Superintendent