



BRISTOL * LINCOLN * MONKTON * NEW HAVEN * STARKSBORO

Mount Abraham Unified School District
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Shaping Our Future Together

Dear MAUSD Community,

The new school year is practically here and we are really excited to welcome all MAUSD students back for full-time, in-person instruction. While this is very exciting we know it can also be concerning given the current reality with COVID-19. Thankfully, Vermont has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world so if anyone can safely return all students to full-time, in-person instruction we can.

Though we are in great shape here in Vermont we must remain vigilant when it comes to keeping our students and staff safe. To that end, we recently received an advisory memo from the Agency of Education and the Vermont Department of Health to guide our plans for opening schools later this month under the current COVID-19 conditions. The memo outlines three high level steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Following these steps will help us achieve our goal of full-time, in-person instruction.

1. Stay Home When Sick

Students and staff staying home when they are sick is the most effective prevention strategy.

All students and staff should stay home if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19;
- Have a temperature greater than 100.4°F; or
- Are currently in quarantine

2. Wear Masks

Following the guidance, we expect all students and staff to wear masks while indoors for at least the first ten instructional days of school. After the first ten days, we may be able to remove masks indoors if at least 80% of students age 12 and older are vaccinated. Regardless of our vaccination rate, masks will continue to be required indoors for students younger than 12, who are not eligible to be vaccinated at this time, and for everyone riding a school bus. Masks will not be required outdoors unless circumstances change requiring this measure to keep everyone safe.

3. Routine Testing

Unvaccinated students and staff will be offered regular opportunities to be tested for COVID-19. Regular testing can help officials stay on top of the local and state COVID-19 context and inform local and state level decisions.

As we've learned over the past many months our local COVID-19 situation can change and if it does we may need to adjust our response to help ensure everyone's safety. We also know there are many more detailed questions that need to be answered and we are assured by officials at the Agency of Education that they are working to help bring clarity to these issues.

The key to being able to operate schools as close to normal as possible is getting more people vaccinated. To that end, I want to let you know about a series of FREE vaccination clinics happening at Mount Abraham Union High School. The first is August 20th, from 2:00-8:00 for anyone ages 12 and up. Two additional clinics will happen at Mt. Abe on September 10th and October 1st. More information about these clinics will be shared as the dates get closer. Walk-ins are welcome at the August 20 clinic, or you can make a reservation with the information below.

- Registration for the clinic
 - [MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#)
 - Use the blue button above to make an appointment through the state website, which includes clinics run by the Health Department, the National Guard, healthcare partners, Costco, Hannaford, Price Chopper, Rite Aid, Shaws and Walmart. You will make your second-dose appointment when you get your first dose.
 - BY PHONE
 - Call us at 855-722-7878 Monday - Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - To speak with someone in a language other than English, call this number, and then press 1.
 - For people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, you can make a TTY call to this number.

As always, thank you for your patience as we navigate the still evolving COVID conditions.

Patrick J. Reen
Superintendent of Schools
Mount Abraham Unified School District