The latest on COVID-19 and how to get ready for school and our new normal

Topics:
• Latest on COVID-19
• Updated safety precautions with fall and school back in session
• Information is POWER – understanding the science behind the vaccine
• Supporting our collective mental health
Ed Gilkey, MD, MS, MBA, CPE, Senior Physician Executive, Northern Light Beacon Health

Jim Jarvis, MD, FAAFP, Senior Physician Executive, Incident Command, Northern Light Health, Director, Clinical Education, Northern Light EMMC

Amy Belisle, MD, MBA, MPH, Chief Pediatrician and Chief Child Health Officer, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Elisabeth Marnik, Ph.D, Assistant Professor College of Science and Humanities, Husson University

Angela Fileccia, LCSW, Director Healthy Life Resource Program, Northern Light Acadia

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Legal Disclosure:

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Ask us questions – give us feedback – this hour is for you

- Please use the **Q and A** function to ask your questions at anytime.
Latest on COVID-19
Delta Variant – What’s the impact

- 1,688,189 Cases
- 8,246 fatalities
- 193,867,637 initiated
- 164,918,721 completed

Map of the USA showing COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in the last 14 days.
Delta variant and vaccines

COVID-19 Test Orders & Results
(Inclusive of NLH Employee Testing)
Data as of: 08/15/2021 | Data Source: Cerner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmed Tests</th>
<th>Resulted Tests</th>
<th>2WK Positive Rate</th>
<th>1WK Positive Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,792</td>
<td>253,454</td>
<td>5.65%</td>
<td>6.55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maine Residents - 243,384 | Pos Rate: 3.48%

Daily Positivity Trend - Resulted Tests
Rolling 30 Days

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Delta Variant – past, present, future...

U.S. Coronavirus Map: Tracking the Trends - Mayo Clinic

June 15, 2021

Today

August 29, 2021

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Delta Variant and our kids

• 18 and under in US
  • 1,900 children under 18 Hospitalized in US
• 20 and under Maine
  • 20% Increase in positive cases in Maine to those under 20
Update on Booster shot!

Currently all talk around booster or additional doses are for Pfizer and Moderna (MRNA) vaccines only

- Yesterday it was announced that government is working on a plan to offer booster doses in mid to late September
  - These should be given no earlier than 8 months after last dose of primary series.
  - These are only for Pfizer and Moderna
  - We may hear more about Johnson & Johnson later
  - Northern Light and the State are discussing plans for Maine
For people with severe immunocompromising conditions, a third dose of either Pfizer or Moderna is available now.

The conditions are as follows:

• People in active treatment for solid tumor and blood cancers
• Recipients of solid-organ transplants taking immunosuppressive therapy
• Recipients of certain cell including stem cell transplants
  • if it is within 2 years of transplantation or are currently taking immunosuppression therapy
• People in active treatment with
  • high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg prednisone or equivalent per day)
  • alkylating agents
  • antimetabolites, or
  • other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive
• People with advanced or untreated HIV infection
• Individuals should consult with their Physician to ensure they meet the current guidance
Maine DHHS
COVID-19 Updates

Amy Belisle MD, MBA, MPH, ME DHHS
COVID-19 and Youth Age <25 in Maine Data

Maine CDC Response to U.S. CDC Guidelines for K-12 Schools

• U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s has issued new recommendations on universal masking in schools to help students and staff safely gather in person and in classrooms amid the nationwide increase of the Delta variant.

• All people on public or private school-provided transport, including buses and vans, are required to wear a mask, per U.S. CDC Order.

• Encourage vaccination of all eligible staff and students: Vaccines help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the number of people who will need to quarantine, should there be a positive case in school.

• U.S. CDC’s guidance strongly recommends screening testing (e.g., pool testing), masks, and physical distancing when possible.
School Guidance

- **DOE School Framework:**
  - COVID-19 ToolKit | Department of Education (maine.gov)

- **CDC School:**
  - Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC

- **School SOP**
  - Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Responding to a Positive Case in Schools | Department of Education (maine.gov) (Revised August 12, 2021)
School Screening Form

Students and Staff should stay home if they are sick

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K-12 Pooled Testing

As of August 6, 2021

- 249 schools have enrolled, 80 districts
- 198 pools completed – 1 positive
- 16 counties represented by enrollees
- 55,000+ targeted students/staff
- Participation rate of 45% in enrolled schools
Youth Covid-19 Vaccination Rates

- Currently, vaccine data is available by age group and county for youth.
- Zip code level data is available for all ages on: **COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard | Covid-19 (maine.gov)**
Youth Covid-19 Vaccination Rates

• In August, youth vaccination rates (% and at least one dose) will be available at the School Administrative Unit (SAU) level via a map.

• Population estimates for each SAU come from the 2019 5-year American Community Survey ZIP code level population estimates and SAU data.
  • Data suppressed if <5 students in this age group in the SAU.
  • Youth vaccination rates reported to the Maine CDC through ImmPact.
School Staff Vaccination Rates and Reporting

- High vaccination rates help ensure school safety
- Facilitates in-person learning and protects vulnerable students and staff
- DHHS is requiring school staff to report COVID–19 vaccine rates effective September 1
- Vaccination rates (%) will be publicly posted to guide local decision-making safety policies
- Public reporting will resemble the Maine Health Care Worker COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard
1. Partner with SAUs: SAUs can complete a survey/application with COVID vaccination plans for 2021-2022. They can request help connecting to a vaccine provider through this link: [2021-22 School COVID Vaccine Clinic Survey and Application](#)

2. Share community/family resources for vaccination: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information & Resources](#)

3. Participate in community forums with schools, local medical and public health experts

4. Learn about additional resources about hosting a vaccination clinic in the [School Location Vaccine Clinic (SLVC) Toolkit](#)
Routine Childhood Vaccines - Law Goes into Effect September 1, 2021

• Rulemaking still in process for LD 798/CH 154 on Childhood Immunizations. Routine technical rule changes are proposed to amend Immunization Requirements for School Children 10-144 CMR ch. 261 (a joint rule with the Department of Education, ch. 126)

• Maine Immunization Program sent letter to Providers on Preparing Students for 2021-22 School Year 8_4_21.pdf with focus on required school vaccines

• DOE also sent letter to schools to distribute to families about the law
Maine DOE School Public Health Response Team

**Purpose:**
The School Public Health Response Team will be the point of contact that SAUs and APS can reach out to for the most current answers related to Covid-19, pooled testing and school located vaccine clinics (SLVC).

**Staff:**
- Coordinator- Nancy Dube, RN
- Three Public Health Specialists – Each will cover 3 Superintendent Regions
- Nine Public Health Liaisons- Each will cover one of the 9 Superintendent Regions
Supporting In-Person Learning in Schools

**Multilayered Approach:**

- Encourage vaccination of all eligible staff and students and community members
- Recommend masking of all staff and students per CDC guidance
- Recommend testing: weekly pooled testing for all student and staff and rapid antigen testing for symptomatic individuals
- Social distance when possible
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Stay home when sick
- Support schools and families
Now’s your time to ask questions. Please use the Q and A option.
Tools you can use:

https://northernlighthealth.org/Resources/Safe-Return-to-Business

**KEEPING KIDS SAFE**

An evidence-based approach to protecting kids during the school year

- **Why now?**
  - Kids don’t have an immunity wall.
  - Not enough kids are protected for an effective immunity wall.
  - Why has the game changed?
    - Kids are more susceptible to the virus (due to higher rates of viral transmission)
    - The virus is more likely to spread in schools.
    - Most kids have been exposed to COVID-19.

- **Safety during a pandemic**
  - Study after study shows the effectiveness of a layered approach to in-school safety.
  - Pandemic fatigue is real.
  - We need to do it for our kids’ health.
  - We need to do it for our community.

- **How to do it**
  - Masking is required inside regardless of vaccination status.
  - Thank you!

**Due to Regional COVID-19 Rates**

- **Masking is Required Inside Regardless of Vaccination Status**
- **Thank You!**

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**Northern Light Health.**

**Good Health Is Good Business**

8.19.21 26
SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, September 16: Mental Health and living with continued COVID

Topics:
• Latest on COVID-19
• Supporting good mental health and increasing awareness

Good Health Is Good Business

SAVE THIS DATE! Thursday, September 16 at 11 AM

Mental health and living with continued COVID

Topics will include:
• Latest on COVID-19
• Supporting good mental health and increasing awareness

Panelists:
• Yvette St. Clair, LPPC-E
• Jennifer Buehler, MHSA, CPHQ

Moderated by:
• Allegra Horn, MD, MS, MBA, CPE

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