



January 23, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to let you know that the recently confirmed cases of COVID-19 associated with George Stevens Academy have been designated as an outbreak. An outbreak designation means that there have been three or more cases of COVID-19 within 14-days.

When many staff members are out due to quarantine, we sometimes need to combine classes, or send two groups, albeit small ones, to the library, which makes contact tracing more difficult. For this reason, and in accord with the guidelines and recommendations from the Maine CDC, the Coronavirus Response Team has recommended to me that we go fully remote for all for the next two weeks. I have accepted that recommendation. Your child or children will receive a similar email later this evening.

Classes for the second semester will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 27. Monday and Tuesday, there will be no classes, to allow for the planned teacher inservice, for extra time for teachers to make the transition to the new semester and to adapt their plans for the rest of the week, and for a thorough cleaning of the campus. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be full remote days, following our remote schedule shared below this message.

The following week, we will have remote classes Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with Wednesday set aside for office hours with teachers if needed, a chance to catch up, and a break from Zooming all day. That schedule also is below.

This is a reminder for us all that the virus is in our community. Please take every precaution, wearing masks, staying six feet apart, frequently washing your hands, and monitoring yourself and your children for symptoms of the virus.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that ranges from mild to severe. It can be more severe in adults 60 years and older and in those with underlying conditions. The virus mainly spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and an uninfected person breathes in the virus. Signs and symptoms include:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

For GSA's full Health and Safety Guidelines, as well as more information about symptoms, handwashing, and wearing masks, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/Nurse](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/Nurse).

For answers to general COVID-19 questions, dial 211 (or 1-866-811-5695). You can also text your ZIP code to 898-211 or email [info@211maine.org](mailto:info@211maine.org). Call your health care provider for

questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at [www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

If you have health-related questions, please call (207) 374-2808 or email School Nurse Nikki Jaffray at [n.jaffray@georgesteve.org](mailto:n.jaffray@georgesteve.org).

If you have other questions, please call the number above or email me at [t.seeley@georgesteve.org](mailto:t.seeley@georgesteve.org).

Respectfully,

Tim Seeley