February 1, 2021

Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

This letter is to inform you that there is an outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences. An outbreak means that there are three or more cases of COVID-19 within a 14-day period. The school has had three confirmed positive cases, one student and two staff.

Based on recommendations from the Maine CDC, we are cleaning the school/classrooms and closing the school to help prevent further spread of COVID-19. **Your child can return the week of February 23.** Please monitor yourself/your student for signs and symptoms. Call a health care provider if symptoms start. It is important that you call a health care facility before you show up in person.

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

**Maine DOE or a school representative will contact you directly if you are identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 10 days from last exposure to the positive individual. A negative test result does not get an individual out of quarantine.**

Students will be expected to attend their classes remotely according to the daily schedule. Please feel free to reach out to your advisor, teachers, or administrators if you have further questions.

Additional questions can be directed to Brittney Ibbitson, School Nurse by calling 509-0182. For 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. Call a health care provider for questions about your symptoms. More information can be found at www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Matt Newberg

Head of School