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Summary: Return to School Clarification: “Well Fitting Mask” defined as KN95 or Surgical Mask

January 25, 2022

Dear Kearsarge Community,

In the January Community Guidance letter sent out on January 21, 2022, the District described the shift to a five-day return from COVID as being contingent upon individuals meeting specific criteria.

After two days of engaging in the return process, one criteria appears to require additional clarification - the mask type used to comply. While DHHS guidance defines the mask type as “well-fitting,” in the adoption of our return criteria, the District defined the type of compliant mask as a **KN95** (strongly recommended) or **surgical mask** (minimum requirement). Other mask types are insufficient to meet the District’s criteria. As such, individuals who are unable or unwilling to wear a KN95 or surgical masks would not be eligible for the reduction of the full ten-days of isolation or quarantine associated with COVID-19.

While parents have provided their own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their students to date, the District has acquired and is providing any returning students with KN95 or Surgical masks for students to use. Nurses and administration will review how to obtain these masks when interacting with families in support of the return process.

Respectfully,

Winfried Feneberg

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