



F O X C R O F T
A C A D E M Y

Arnold B. Shorey
Head of School

August 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

Based on the Governor's designation of our region as "green" and the 210 parent responses, Foxcroft Academy has decided to open the 2020 school year as "hybrid," which means a combination of in-person and online. I want to thank all the parents who responded to the survey. It was beneficial, especially the information concerning "providing your own transportation." The decision to go with the hybrid model was made to provide the students and staff the safest environment possible in compliance with the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Center for Disease Control, which both provide the standards that Foxcroft Academy will follow.

Students will attend in-person twice a week in two cohorts, Pony- Monday and Tuesday and Pride- Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a "deep clean day" and time for our teachers to maintain online learning for all students, including the day and boarding students who will be engaging solely online. After the start of school, there is flexibility for students to attend more than twice a week, which will be triggered by requests from the teacher and the student's ability to get transportation (i.e., a student needs more time in the welding, math help, etc.). It also needs to be pointed out that our teachers will be extremely busy maintaining online and in-person instruction. They are very excited to have students back in school for in-person instruction.

You will receive more information with the start of school mailing on 8/17/2020, which will include protocols and procedures for all of us to follow. As per my July 13th letter and now the State mandate, everyone in the Academy will be wearing a face-covering (an alternative to the mask due to medical conditions will be allowed). Parents, we will ask you to screen your student at home as recommended by the CDC before they come to school, and if your child does not feel well or exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19, **they need to stay home**. The first thing the students will do when they enter the building will be to wash their hands, and we will be enforcing six-foot distancing with everyone in the building. Plexiglas barriers will be in place in front of teachers' desks and on dining tables to provide further protection.

Attached is a two-page "frequently asked questions," a parent screening tool, and the guiding principles that are needed to be in place for students to return to school.

I may have said this before, but I remember my grandmother telling me about all the sacrifices that she and her family had to make during the Great Depression and World War II. This is our time to make sacrifices and work together. I recognize that it is virtually impossible to make a decision concerning the reopening of school that would make everyone happy. So, the decision has to be made to make the safest decision for all involved. We are very excited about having our students back in school where they belong!

Stay well and safe,

Arnold Shorey, Head of School

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Foxcroft Academy opening as “hybrid” status when the county is Green?

Foxcroft Academy has good sized rooms; however, we have narrow hallways and an undersized cafeteria. One of the CDC recommendations is to keep students in one room and have teachers rotate to meet them which is not possible as there is a wide variety of students in each class. Movement from class to class using the 6-foot distancing requirement will be safer in a hybrid model.

Will Foxcroft Academy stay in “hybrid” status for the rest of the year?

Not necessarily, this can change bi-weekly according to the Governor's coding of the county, COVID-19 cases occurring at school, and other factors. This is why the basis of curriculum delivery is based on-line as it will allow education to continue during all possible phases, remote, hybrid, or in-person.

What should happen if my student shows symptoms of COVID-19 during the morning screening conducted at home?

The student should stay home if any illness is detected. If there are any questions, call your doctor or call Mrs. Gilbert, Foxcroft Academy's School Nurse. If the student does not feel well the student should stay home. Free testing will be and currently is available in Dover-Foxcroft.

What are the safety measures being taken by Foxcroft Academy?

The building will be marked indicating 6 feet distances and students will be directed to stay six feet apart. Face coverings are required for all to wear, and if medical conditions warrant a face shield instead of a mask, that will be allowed if at the proper standards. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands when they enter the building and between classes. Hand sanitizer will be available in each room. Screened windows will be open and fans will be in place to move air. Uni-vents in each room are going through maintenance to also move air. Each room will have an ionizer to remove germs and viruses in the air. Plexiglas partitions will be on cafeteria tables with only two students at each table. The maintenance crew will be actively busy in disinfecting high traffic areas and often used door handles, etc. No guarantees can be made and a great deal of effort has been and will be made to make the Academy safe.

Will a medical reason be required for a student who will stay home and remotely learn?

No

If a teacher does not attend in-person, what will happen to the daily schedule?

There will be teachers who will need to teach remotely due to medical conditions that put them at risk, and there will be an adult in the room with the students. The teacher may be able to be virtually present, or students may be working on assignments that are currently due for that class.

What will happen if someone is at school and found to have symptoms of COVID-19?

Once again if there is any doubt whether your student is ill, or showing symptoms, the student needs to stay home. This is why morning screening is essential. If a student is found to be ill they will be placed in an isolation room and the parent/guardian will be notified to come to pick them up. The student should be tested. If the student is found to be positive or negative, the Academy should be notified as soon as possible.

What is the protocol for a student or staff member to return to the Academy after contracting COVID-19?

You can return when:

- It has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- It has been at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Symptoms have improved

Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you are tested, you can be around others when you have no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, and you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

What if my student was exposed to someone who has contracted COVID-19?

If there was any exposure to the student or family, the student should quarantine for 14 days.

What will happen if there is a case of COVID-19 at Foxcroft Academy?

With a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Foxcroft Academy, the school will be closed for at least five days for a "deep cleaning." All students will be learning remotely during the shutdown. Communication with the school community will take place using the Iris system.

Will there be Athletics?

Foxcroft Academy is planning to have athletics if approved for safe operations by the CDC, Maine Principals' Association, and the Maine Department of Education.

Will there be Clubs?

Yes, operating virtually or within the physical distancing guidelines.

What will attendance policies look like?

This will be up to the teachers and dependent on whether the student is learning through the "hybrid" model or remotely. It will be expected that the student engages with the parameters established by the classroom teacher.

If your question is not answered, please contact Foxcroft Academy and your question will be answered.

Adapted from [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), [maine.gov](https://www.maine.gov) "Framework for Returning to Class Instruction"

COVID-19

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours
have you had a fever
(100.4 and above*) or
used any fever reducing
medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick with any
of the most common
symptoms?
(see symptom list to the right)

YES =



Have you been in close
contact with a person who
has COVID-19?

YES =



Have you traveled
outside of the state in
the past 14 days?

YES =



Contact
Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "other" or "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of
breath
or difficulty
breathing
Fever (100.4 or
greater)*

Other Symptoms

Chills
Muscle pain
Sore throat
New loss of taste
or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Nausea or
Vomiting
Stomach pain
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Rash
Swelling or redness
of hands/feet
Red eyes/eye
drainage
Congestion/
runny nose

*Fever is 100.4
regardless of
measurement
location (oral,
temporal).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for Schools

5 Requirements for Safely Opening Schools in the Fall

Symptom Screening Before Coming to School - Students

(parents/caregivers) and staff members must conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to boarding buses or entering school buildings each day. Schools should provide information to families in their primary language to support them in conducting this check. Any person showing symptoms must report their symptoms and not be present at school. Schools must provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and absences.

Physical Distancing and Facilities -*Adults must maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the extent possible. Maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements. 6 feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating breakfast and lunch, as students will be unable to wear masks at that time. A “medical isolation room” (separate from the nurse’s office) must be designated for students/staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Adequate ventilation is required for classrooms, with schools having flexibility in implementation such as using properly working ventilation systems or outdoor air exchange using fans in open windows or doors. Groups in any one area, room, or classroom must not exceed the Governor’s gathering size limits.*

Masks/Face Coverings - *Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering. Students age five and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. (Updated 7/31/20) Masks are recommended for children ages two to four, when developmentally appropriate. (Updated 7/31/20). Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on the bus.*

Hand Hygiene - *All students and staff in a school must receive training in proper hand hygiene. All students and staff must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after donning or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment, and upon entering and exiting a school bus.*

Return to School after Illness - *Sick staff members and students must use home isolation until they meet the criteria for returning to school.*