



Regional School Unit No. 18

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Happy Sunday, and a beautiful fall weekend it has been. This year has come with obvious challenges, but I continue to be impressed with so many people in our district. Everywhere I look I see great things happening. October is fire prevention month. I so enjoyed seeing the pictures and hearing the stories about the visits to our schools by the local Fire Departments. These first responders are community members, parents and neighbors. They take time out of their day to come to our elementary schools to educate the kids. It is a highlight of the fall for the young ones and just another reminder of how great our communities are. Thank you to all our local first responders.

In terms of COVID-19 I do have an update on vaccinations. This past week I spoke with representatives from MaineGeneral Hospital. They are expecting approval from the FDA by the end of October to offer COVID-19 vaccinations for students age 5 – 11. I have worked with staff at MaineGeneral to schedule clinics for this vaccination starting on November 1st.

- November 1st: MaineGeneral staff will offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for students at Atwood and Williams Schools. This clinic will be at one of these two schools, more details to follow on that. The second dose will be on November 22nd.
- November 2nd: MaineGeneral staff will offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at China Primary School. China Middle School students under 12 will be able to attend. The second dose will be on November 23rd.
- November 3rd: MaineGeneral staff will offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Belgrade Central School in the morning, and at James H. Bean School in the afternoon. The second dose will be on November 29th.

THE COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL BE OPTIONAL FOR PARENTS TO DECIDE. Parents will have to sign a permission slip for their child to be vaccinated. As soon as we get these blank permission slips from MaineGeneral, we will get them out to anyone who wants one.

I know there are differing opinions on the COVID-19 vaccination, but like we do with the flu vaccination, we work with the local hospitals to make this available at our schools to help parents. I know how busy families are, and my hope is this will help those who want to have their child receive this vaccination.

Have a great week.

Carl Gartley: Superintendent of Schools