



RSU #23  
Old Orchard Beach School Department  
40 E. Emerson Cummings Blvd  
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064  
(207) 934-5751 Fax (207) 934-1917  
[www.rsu23.org](http://www.rsu23.org)

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Date: August 25, 2022

Subject: RSU 23 Health & Safety Information & Updates

Dear RSU 23 Students & Families:

In advance of our first week of school there is some important health and safety information to share with all RSU 23 students and families. Additional health and safety information will be provided at our scheduled school open houses, and our RSU 23 Health Services Team stands ready to support our students and families. Prior to sending your child to school next week please review the following health and safety guidelines and contact us with any questions.

**IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME:** People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. A complete list of symptoms can be found on the [US CDC website \(linked\)](#). In the event that your student tests positive for COVID-19, please notify a member of our district health team.

**ISOLATION GUIDELINES:** Isolation guidelines for a positive test result include that when a person tests positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate at home, regardless of vaccination status.

- More information about isolation can be found on the [US CDC website \(Linked\)](#).
- Maine CDC does not recommend requiring a negative test to return to school (for staff or students who test positive and have completed 5 days of isolation).
- When returning to school after 5 days of isolation, individuals must wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. After the 5-day isolation, with 2 sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, masks may be removed before day 10.

**COVID-19 HOME TEST KITS:** In partnership with the Maine Department of Education, RSU 23 is offering free COVID-19 home test kits for each student and staff member within the district. Each test kit contains five tests each and can be easily administered at home. We will distribute these test kits in each of our schools on our Open House nights and our school health team will be available to answer any questions you may have. If you are unable to attend please notify our school secretaries so they can work with you to arrange a pick-up.

**MEET THE 22/23 HEALTH SERVICES TEAM:** Our RSU 23 Health Service Team brings decades of combined experience in the school and clinical health fields and are standing by to support our students and families. The three members of this district-wide team are:

**Katie Gagnon, BSN, RN** is going into her second year working as a school nurse in the district. Katie's office is located at Loranger Memorial school, where she is the school nurse for grades 3-8. The two nurses in our district also share caring for our high school students, along with our health aide. In 2020 Katie was a substitute nurse, the pandemic led to Katie assisting the health care team on a more regular basis where she fell in love with the community and providing a healthy, safe environment for the students in our district. Prior to joining RSU 23 Katie worked for 12 years as an acute care cardiac nurse at Maine Medical Center. She loves being a school nurse and looks forward to



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working with the families in Old Orchard Beach to keep the students healthy and ready to learn! Katie can be reached at [kgagnon@rsu23.org](mailto:kgagnon@rsu23.org).

**Sarah Burnham, RN:** Sarah joined the RSU 23 community as a District School Nurse in December of 2018. Her office is at Jameson Elementary, where she provides care for our youngest learners in the district, while also providing shared nursing coverage at the high school. Sarah has been a registered nurse for over 20 years. Before school nursing, she worked at York Hospital as a critical care nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. She also worked in Patient Quality and Risk Management promoting patient and staff safety. Sarah has enjoyed the transition to school nursing as it allows her more time with her family and friends. She has loved getting to know the Old Orchard Beach community and becoming a resource for students and their families. Sarah can be reached at [sburnham@rsu23.org](mailto:sburnham@rsu23.org).

**Michelle Allen, CNA III** will be joining the health team this year as our district-wide Health Aide and is very excited to join the RSU 23 staff. Michelle continues to work per diem at Maine Medical Center on their pediatric floor, Barbara Bush Children's hospital where she has worked since 2017. Before that she worked on the adult floors in the float pool and their wound care clinic. She's looking forward to the transition to school based care, and working with the students, families and community of Old Orchard Beach. Michelle can be reached at [mallen@rsu23.org](mailto:mallen@rsu23.org).

In closing, RSU 23 is here to work alongside our students and families to promote a successful school year for all of our RSU 23 learning community. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remains paramount in our decision making process and we remain ready to support you wherever and whenever we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Suttie".

John Suttie  
RSU 23 Superintendent of Schools