



Bioscience Association of Maine presents:

# ME BIOSCIENCE DAY

November 15-19, 2021



#mebioscienceday

## ME Bioscience Day 2021 FAQs

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### What is ME Bioscience Day?

ME Bioscience Day is a statewide event aimed at promoting STEM education. Traditionally, scientists and bioscience professionals visit middle schools in Maine on one day in November, talk about their work and company, and perform a hands-on activity with the students. In 2019 we worked with 26 schools and reached about 3,500 students. Last year the event was held virtually and we reached 46 schools and over 5,100 students.

### Who can participate in ME Bioscience Day 2021?

Any middle school in Maine can participate, public and private. Typically grades 6-8.

### **How is ME Bioscience Day going to be conducted in 2021?**

To answer in the simplest way: the presentations and hands-on activity are pre-recorded and ready to be played in the classroom/at home. We will send science teachers a link to the videos as well as a package with instructions, additional activities and hands-on materials, if requested. ME Bioscience Day 2021 is a virtual event that is designed to fit in-person classroom instruction or at-home remote learning. It's basically a customizable lesson plan that can be used and adjusted, according to your and your students' needs.

### **When is ME Bioscience Day this year?**

The week of November 15-19. ME Bioscience Day usually happens on a specific day in November at all participating schools in Maine, but because of the discrepancies in schedule and virtual formatting, we ask that your ME Bioscience lesson is conducted during that week. It is up to you when and how you will conduct it.

### **Do all science teachers from one school have to participate?**

No. Individual teachers can also participate and provide the ME Bioscience Day experience to one or more groups of students at a given school.

### **Do I need to sign up to participate in ME Bioscience Day this year?**

Yes, registration ahead of time is necessary. Only teachers who sign up ahead of time can participate in ME Bioscience Day 2021. To sign up please email us at [info@mainebioscience.org](mailto:info@mainebioscience.org).

### **What format will ME Bioscience Day take in 2021?**

Pre-recorded videos that can be played in the classroom or at home. One of the videos is focused on hands-on activity instructions that can be paused and played as the students work on the activity. The teachers will also be given materials and written instructions that will help with conducting the activity. Additionally, there will be several opportunities throughout the week to participate in a live Zoom Q&A with the speakers that "starred" in the video recordings.

### **Will volunteers come to my school?**

No. Because of COVID restrictions we have decided to continue with virtual formatting again this year.

### **What is the hands-on activity this year?**

The hands-on activity this year is universal for all schools and is about how soap inactivates coronaviruses. Coronaviruses are surrounded by the same type of membrane that surrounds human cells. The activity explains the biological structure of viruses and cell membranes briefly and how disrupting this membrane with soap or alcohol inactivates the virus. Students will create a soap-film membrane (mimicking the membrane of a virus) that they can test in various ways to learn about what disturbs the membrane. The hands-on activity is optional.

### **When will I get the videos and the materials?**

We are aiming to get materials to you on November 8th. If you choose to do the optional hands on activity, the materials may arrive after November 8th but before November 15th.

### **Will ME Bioscience Day 2021 take place via Zoom?**

Yes and No. We will send you re-recorded videos, instructions and materials ahead of time so that you can conduct ME Bioscience Day on your own time and in whatever way works best for you, your school and your students. However, our live Zoom Q&A sessions with the presenters from the videos will be available during the week of November 15th.

### **How will the live Q&A sessions be performed?**

In the questionnaire we will ask what times and days during the week of the event will work best for you and your students. Once we have information from all schools, we will schedule our presenters at times that work best for most schools. We will have a couple options available but may not be able to accommodate everyone. The Zoom Q&A sessions are optional.

### **Will remote students be able to participate in ME Bioscience Day 2021?**

Yes, absolutely! ME Bioscience Day 2021 is designed to fit in-classroom instruction, as well as remote learning situations.

### **What is BioME?**

BioME (Bioscience Association of Maine) is a trade industry group focused on advancing and promoting life sciences in Maine and beyond.