


# RIVER DELL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

230 Woodland Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

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To: Board of Education  
From: Patrick J. Fletcher   
Subject: 2021-22 District COVID Protocols  
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The public health crisis caused by COVID-19 impacted the 2020-21 school year in many ways. It will take some time to understand how far the reach goes and it is fair to believe that the crisis while diminished, is not done. The items shown below are a way to quantify the impact, but they are merely a small representation of River Dell's experience:

- There were three changes to the school calendar.
- There were four different schedules implemented during the year.
- The district conducted 85,789 daily symptom surveys.
- There were 101 confirmed positive cases in the school population.
- 781 individuals were placed into quarantine.
- The schools were closed six times.
- The district participated in 3 vaccine administrations.
- 83% of staff received a vaccine by June 30, 2021

As we turn to the new school year that begins on September 1, we must provide some guidance for students, staff, and community members. We will once again rely on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH - [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE - [www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)). We will also consult with the health departments of the Boroughs of Oradell and River Edge.

This memo describes the River Dell Regional School District COVID protocols for the 2021-22 School Year. It incorporates recommendations from The Path Forward published jointly by the NJ Departments of Health and Education. Copies of all information are available on the district's regularly updated webpage - [RD Reopening Plan - River Dell Regional School District](#).

**Please note that the situation remains fluid and that these protocols are subject to change by order of the CDC, NJDOH and NJDOE and the local health departments.**

The following protocols are in effect for the River Dell Regional School District beginning Wednesday, September 1, 2021:

### **Vaccination**

- 1) There is no requirement for vaccination by either the State of New Jersey or the River Dell School District.
- 2) There are different quarantine requirements depending on vaccination status. Please see below.
- 3) River Dell is uniquely positioned to enjoy a more normal school year because our entire student and staff population is eligible to receive a vaccine.
- 4) To date, 83% of staff is fully vaccinated.
- 5) There are three locations in our communities providing access to the vaccine – Walgreens and HNH Fitness in Oradell and CVS in River Edge.

### **Building Protocols**

- 1) There is no mask mandate at this time.
- 2) Individuals may choose to wear a mask while inside the River Dell school buildings regardless of vaccination status.
- 3) Individuals may choose to wear a mask while on school property regardless of vaccination status.
- 4) Individuals will **not** be completing a daily COVID questionnaire.
- 5) Individuals are not required to complete a temperature check when entering the school buildings. Screening kiosks are provided for convenience.
- 6) All individuals are encouraged to stay home when feeling sick.
- 7) All individuals will enter the buildings through the newly installed security vestibules during school hours and must be prepared to present identification. Security vestibules are located at the main entrances of both buildings and the gymnasium entrance of the high school.

### **Symptomatic Individuals and Positive Tests**

- 1) Unvaccinated staff and students who exhibit COVID-like symptoms may not attend school until they complete a 10-day quarantine that ends with symptom improvement that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- 2) Fully vaccinated (14 days after receiving both doses of a two-shot vaccine or 14 days after receiving a one-shot vaccine) staff and students who exhibit COVID-like symptoms may return upon receiving a negative test.
- 3) Staff and students who test positive will remain in quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset or the date of the positive test if no symptoms are present regardless of vaccination status. Students and staff members must be symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- 4) Close contacts will include those individuals who are within 6 feet of the symptomatic or positive person for more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period regardless of setting.

- 5) Unvaccinated close contacts of individuals who test positive for COVID must quarantine for 10 days from the last known exposure. Quarantine may be shortened to 7 days if a negative test is produced that was collected between 5 and 7 days of exposure.
- 6) Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine because of a close contact as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- 7) Individuals who clinically recovered from COVID do not need to quarantine if the exposure occurs within 90 days of recovery.
- 8) Secondary contacts continue to have no restrictions but should monitor and report any symptoms that may develop.

### **Travel**

- 1) As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect. The CDC, however, has recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers that the district will follow. Please refer to the CDC webpage - [Travelers' Health | CDC](#) - for specific information.

### **Bussing and Transportation**

- 1) All individuals who utilize district owned or contracted busses are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

We will continue to monitor emerging guidance and adjust the protocols accordingly.

Thank you.