

# *River Dell Regional School District*

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[www.riverdell.org](http://www.riverdell.org)

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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August 25, 2021

Dear River Dell Community:

As we prepare for the return of staff on September 1 and students on September 2, it is important to remember that the rules affecting school opening remain fluid and are subject to change by order of the CDC, NJDOH and NJDOE, local health officials and the Governor's office. There are three important changes since my letter of July 27:

- 1) On August 6, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order 251 requiring the mandatory use of face masks by students, staff and visitors when inside school buildings with limited exemptions as set forth in the order. This order is now in effect at River Dell.
- 2) On August 20, 2021, the NJ Departments of Education and Health jointly issued an update to *The Road Forward* which is the guidance for local districts to use when opening school.
- 3) On August 23, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order 253 requiring all covered workers to either provide adequate proof that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021. Like all school districts, River Dell will develop a procedure to track testing over the next few weeks. We are already tracking vaccination status.

During the last two weeks, each principal sent letters regarding the first week of school. Each principal will provide additional updates as building protocols evolve. We are fortunate that the first two days of school for students are one-session days. This will allow students to become familiar with building procedures including the protocols for safely eating lunch. Please consult the district website [RD Reopening Plan - River Dell Regional School District](#) and school websites for up-to-date information that includes the documents referenced above.

River Dell is uniquely positioned to enjoy a more normal school year because almost our entire student population is eligible to receive a vaccine. While there is no vaccine mandate for students, there are differences in the quarantine protocols for fully vaccinated individuals and those who are not. We are collecting vaccination information for our students through the Community Pass portal. The information is kept in a secure file and is only available to school nurses and school administrators. Please note that there are now four locations providing access to the vaccine – Walgreens and HNH Fitness in Oradell, CVS in River Edge and New Bridge Medical Center which is offering vaccines for students from 7:00 AM to 2:30 PM Tuesdays through Thursdays.

We look forward seeing everyone next week.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Fletcher  
Superintendent of Schools

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