

River Dell Regional School District

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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December 23, 2021

Dear River Dell Community:

This letter is to provide detailed information regarding COVID cases in River Dell and what to expect as we enter the holiday break. All statistics are as of the closing of school today.

- Seventy-two (72%) percent of students are fully vaccinated.
- Ninety-four (94%) of staff are fully vaccinated.
- Between September 1 and December 16, there were fifteen (15) positive cases in students. Six (6) of those cases occurred in the middle school and nine (9) in the high school. During the same period, there were seven (7) cases in staff.
- Between December 17 and today, there were twenty-five (25) positive cases in students. Fifteen (15) of those cases occurred in the middle school and ten (10) in the high school. During the same period, there were two (2) cases in staff.
- There are 1603 students enrolled in the district. The infection rate within the population is 2.5%.
- There are 247 employees in the district. The infection rate within the population is 3.6%.

While the infection rates are extremely low, it is foolish to ignore the recent increase in cases. This suggests that there is community spread within the boroughs we serve. We will continue to work with local and state health officials to monitor the situation during the holiday break. Our goal is to keep school open, but we must be prepared for every possibility including a return to virtual instruction. The decision to implement remote learning is not made unilaterally by the Board of Education or the Superintendent. Below is an excerpt from the latest communication from the Bergen County Executive County Superintendent of Schools:

Districts must consult their local health department to determine if a closure is necessary due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Prior to closing any school building(s) due to COVID-19, LEAs must first consult with the local health department to determine if building closure is the most appropriate response to the circumstances in a given school building.

The decision to move a school to remote learning is not a decision the Superintendent or Board can make alone. That decision needs to come from the department of health.

River Dell will follow this advice and communicate any changes in local conditions during the holiday break. We anticipate reopening on January 3, 2022.

We know there will be cases of COVID over the break. We ask that you refer to the following charts for guidance on the required quarantine and date your child is permitted to return to school. Please remember that vaccinated students do not need to quarantine after close contact if they remain asymptomatic.

IF YOUR CHILD IS A CLOSE CONTACT		
<i>Date of Exposure</i>	<i>Return Date With Negative Test on Day 5, 6 or 7 After Exposure*</i>	<i>Return Date No Test</i>
December 24	Monday, January 3	Tuesday, January 4
December 25	Monday, January 3	Wednesday, January 5
December 26	Monday, January 3	Thursday, January 6
December 27	Tuesday, January 4	Friday, January 7
December 28	Wednesday, January 5	Monday, January 10
December 29	Thursday, January 6	Monday, January 10
December 30	Friday, January 7	Monday, January 10
December 31	Monday, January 10	Tuesday, January 11
January 1	Monday, January 10	Wednesday, January 12
January 2	Monday, January 10	Thursday, January 13

**Day 1 is the day after an individual has close contact.*

IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID	
<i>Date of Positive Test (if asymptomatic) or Date of Symptom Onset</i>	<i>Return Date*</i>
December 24	Tuesday, January 4
December 25	Wednesday, January 5
December 26	Thursday, January 6
December 27	Friday, January 7
December 28	Monday, January 10
December 29	Monday, January 10
December 30	Monday, January 10
December 31	Tuesday, January 11
January 1	Wednesday, January 12
January 2	Thursday, January 13

**Day 1 is the day after either onset of symptoms or a positive test.*

If your child tests positive or is a close contact, we ask that you e-mail your respective school nurse and building principal. Please include the following information in the e-mail:

Student Name

Student Grade

Date of Positive Test or Exposure

Date of Symptom Onset (if symptomatic)

Date of Anticipated Return (see chart above)

Negative test results should also be e-mailed to the school nurse and building principal.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe and schools open. Please enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PJF', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Patrick J. Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools

PJF/le