

River Dell Regional School District

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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December 31, 2021

Dear River Dell Community:

This communication is an update to my letter of December 23, 2021. Since the beginning of break on December 23, there were forty (40) positive cases in students. Nine (9) of those cases occurred in the middle school and thirty-one (31) in the high school. During the same period, there were seven (7) cases in staff. Despite these numbers, we will open for regular instruction on January 3. **Please note that virtual instruction and other limitations to existing activities remain a future option based on revised conditions and local transmission rates.**

Although the CDC has updated guidance on quarantine timeframes for the general population, **it has not yet applied the recently revised isolation and quarantine timeframes for the general population to K-12 schools.** Therefore, the December 15, 2021 guidance document for local health departments remains in effect until further notice. A summary is below and specific quarantine guidelines are in the December 23 letter. We will notify you when we receive updated guidance from Trenton.

- 1) The quarantine period for close contacts of positive individuals is ten (10) days. The period may be reduced to seven (7) with a negative PCR test taken between five (5) and seven (7) days of the exposure. Fully vaccinated individuals and those who clinically recovered from a COVID infection within ninety (90) days of the close contact do not need to quarantine.
- 2) Individuals who test positive must continue quarantine for ten (10) days from symptom onset or the date of the positive test when asymptomatic. At the conclusion of the ten (10) day period, individuals must be symptom free and without fever for twenty-four hours without the use of fever reducing medicine.

River Dell has an additional requirement. We ask that individuals who are close contacts of family members residing in the same household stay home regardless of vaccination status until receiving a negative test or complete the quarantine protocols.

If a student or a family member tests positive or is a close contact, we ask that you e-mail your school nurse and building principal so you may receive appropriate guidance.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe and schools open. I wish you a happy and healthy New Year and hope that you enjoy the remainder of break.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools

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