

River Dell Regional School District

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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January 14, 2022

Dear River Dell Community:

As you may be aware, the NJ Department of Health updated its guidance regarding quarantine timelines that aligns more closely with the CDC. There is a reference chart on the website for your convenience. However, it is important to note that for adults, a booster shot plays an important role in the quarantine process. When River Dell returns to in-person learning on January 19, we will implement the following:

For staff:

- 1) If you test positive for COVID, you must quarantine for five days regardless of vaccination status. If you are asymptomatic (i.e., fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducing medicine) after five days, you may return. If symptoms continue you may return after ten days.
- 2) You are a close contact in school if you are within three feet of an individual for 15 minutes of cumulative time during a 24-hour period even if both individuals are wearing masks.
- 3) If you are a close contact, you do not need to quarantine if:
 - a) You are fully vaccinated and have been boosted
 - b) You are clinically recovered from a COVID infection within the last 90 days
 - c) You received either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines within the last 6 months
 - d) You received a J&J vaccine within the last 2 months
- 4) If you are a close contact and do not meet any of the conditions in 3 above or are unvaccinated, you must quarantine for five days. If you are asymptomatic (i.e., fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducing medicine) after five days, you may return. If you develop symptoms, you must return after 10 days.
- 5) Individuals who are close contacts of family members residing in the same household should stay home regardless of vaccination or COVID recovery status for five days or until receiving a negative test.

For students:

- 1) If you test positive for COVID, you must quarantine for five days regardless of vaccination status. If you are asymptomatic (i.e., fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducing medicine) after five days, you may return. If symptoms continue you may return after ten days.
- 2) You are a close contact in school if you are within three feet of an individual for 15 minutes of cumulative time during a 24-hour period even if both individuals are wearing masks.
- 3) If you are a close contact, you do not need to quarantine if:
 - a) You are fully vaccinated
 - b) You are clinically recovered from a COVID infection within the last 90 days
- 4) If you are a close contact and do not meet any of the conditions in 3 above or are unvaccinated, you must quarantine for five days. If you are asymptomatic (i.e., fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducing medicine) after five days, you may return. If you develop symptoms, you must return after 10 days.
- 5) Individuals who are close contacts of family members residing in the same household should stay home regardless of vaccination or COVID recovery status for five days or until receiving a negative test.
- 6) Please remember that there is no remote option for students unless they are quarantined according to these guidelines.

These new guidelines will have a positive impact on the operation of the district. All students affected by COVID before the transition to remote and those who tested positive (as of the date of this letter) during that period will be eligible to return on the 19th. All staff affected by COVID before the transition to remote and those who tested positive (as of the date of this letter) during that period will be eligible to return on the 19th.

Since the holiday break and including this remote period, our buildings and grounds staff made positive improvements to the facilities. Six rooftop ventilation units received upgrades and MERV-13 air filters. In addition, all other individual ventilation units received upgraded MERV-13 filters. These upgrades combined with existing interventions will improve the quality of ventilation throughout the district.

We are also at a seventy-six percent vaccination rate for students. This is a large increase from the last reported number on December 23, 2021.

These are all positive steps for the community. However, we must remain diligent as we continue to navigate the impact of the public health crisis caused by COVID-19. Masks must still be worn in the buildings. You must still report to your school nurse and building principal if a student or a family member tests positive or is a close contact so that you may receive appropriate guidance. However, the simplest and most effective way to keep everyone safe is to stay home if you feel sick. Do not return to school until fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Thank you for helping us keep our children.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools

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