



Rivendell Interstate School District
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January 13, 2022

Dear RISD School Community:

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday, January 18th. Closing school was a difficult, but necessary decision. By Tuesday afternoon we were up to sixty active positive COVID cases which temporarily disrupted our ability to operate, but we have **no** intention of moving away from in-person instruction.

As you may know, the CDC updated their guidance over the holiday break. Both New Hampshire and Vermont have adopted this guidance moving away from contact tracing which has proven to be ineffective against the rapidly spreading Omicron variant.

There will be a **limited** opportunity to pick up antigen tests for students and staff tomorrow, **Friday, January 14th**. At this time tests are available if:

- You have a student or are a staff member that tested positive for COVID, or has been identified as a close contact **AND**
- who is still within the 10-day timeframe of needing antigen testing in order to end isolation or come to school during quarantine

Tests can be picked up from **12-4 PM** at the following locations:

- Rivendell Academy lower parking lot bus loop
- Westshire Elementary School Main Entrance

The most important things to understand:

- Contact the school if your child test positive or if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID.
- Understand that students will be sent home if they have symptoms even with a negative home antigen test. Student would be able to return the next day with a second negative antigen test and improved symptoms.
- Unless you are positive with COVID or symptomatic all students will have the opportunity to use antigen test at home provided by the district to remain in school.
- The success of this procedural change is predicated on our test kit supplies, which are provided by our respective states.

As always, thank you once again for your support, feedback and understanding as we continue to adapt to keep our school community safe and in school. We will communicate changes and updates with you and notify you of our plan to make these three school days up in the spring. You will see attached a one-page flow chart that outlines the new procedures we will implement starting next week.

Thank You,

Barrett Williams, Superintendent
Rivendell Interstate School District