



Rivendell Interstate School District
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Superintendent

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September 10, 2021

Good Afternoon RISD School Community,

I am writing to update families about Rivendell's COVID-19 safety measures. Our focus remains on keeping our school community **healthy** and our schools **operational**. We have had active cases within the district and the recent rise in case counts in Vermont and New Hampshire have prompted considerable discussion between school administrators, COVID Coordinators and the health care professionals that we rely on for information and guidance. At this time, we are going to continue the mitigation and safety measures we currently have in place and will reevaluate monthly or as new information becomes available.

Our hope is to transition away from these mitigation strategies and manage COVID-19 as we would any other illness. We don't anticipate this will happen until there is an option for our eleven and under population to be vaccinated. Without the precautions we currently have in place our faculty, staff and students are more susceptible to infection and the District is more at risk of having to close for extended periods of time.

Universal masking indoors: All students and employees (as well as guests, parents, and community members) need to wear a mask any time they are inside a school building. We will reevaluate monthly or as needed based on changing conditions.

Stay home when sick: Please assess at home. Do you have a temperature above 100° or any other COVID symptoms? If so, stay home from school, carefully monitor, and consider the need for COVID testing.

Hand hygiene is still important! We'll have hand sanitizer throughout the buildings and encourage frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.

Distancing: While we don't have a 6-foot distancing requirement this year, we need to continue to be conscientious about personal space. In classrooms, outside, and in common spaces, please give others room to move and breathe freely.

Masking on buses: There is a federal mandate to mask on public transportation which includes school buses. All riders will be required to wear a mask.

Field trips: We will assess the logistics and safety concerns of school-day field trips on a case-by-case basis. We are not allowing overnight trips currently.

Large indoor gatherings: Indoor assemblies will not occur at this time unless students can be properly spaced.

Assigned seating: Seating charts will be kept for classes and buses for the purpose of contact tracing.

Contact tracing: We will continue to utilize the guidance of the Vermont State Health Department, to conduct contact tracing in our schools. Please note that there may be other factors such as symptoms, vaccination status, etc. that may contribute to the guidance.

Fairlee, Vershire, West Fairlee, VT and Orford, NH

Quarantine/Testing: COVID testing required for return to school must be PCR COVID tests. Antigen tests will not be accepted. Anyone planning on entering the school building must be free of COVID-19 symptoms listed below.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (100.4 °F or higher) (We include a temp of 100.0 F or higher for school purposes.)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New, different, or severe headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have specific questions related to symptoms or COVID-19 in general, please contact one of our COVID safety coordinators:

ACADEMY COVID COORDINATOR

Creigh Moffat: cmoffat@rivendellschool.org

ELEMENTARY COVID COORDINATOR

Jessica Gould: jgould@rivendellschool.org

Thank You,

Barrett Williams
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