

Dear Riverview Parents,

We hope you continue to stay safe, peaceful, and well. This week, we extend our gratitude for our District Health Staff, who work tirelessly with the Allegheny County Health Department to serve the school community and keep us safe daily. If you get a chance to thank them, please do. We honor them. We are also fortunate to have such a dedicated County Health Department that is fully staffed, accessible and helpful (and tend to our needs at all hours of the day and night). These are the essential front line workers that are crucial in keeping us safe and helping us to get through this health crisis. Thank you!

**Please read through these important updates in their entirety:**

1. **Covid protocol** – I know we have mentioned this, but we want to emphasize this again. The following is the protocol as set forth by the Allegheny County Health Department for possible cases of Covid: If a student or staff is *confirmed* with a positive case of Covid-19, our Health Staff will contact the County Health Department immediately and follow up with a detailed interview of the infected individual (and/or their families). The purpose of this interview is to determine who, if anyone, was in “close contact” with the infected individual at school. “Close contact,” is defined by the Allegheny County Health Department as anyone who was less than 6ft away for more than 15 consecutive minutes from the person infected. Those determined to be in “close contact” will be notified and provided with additional steps and guidance in regard to their own health and the health and safety of others (this may include a period of quarantine). We cannot provide public health information to those that were not in “close contact,” as doing so is both violating HIPPA laws *and* the privacy of the person infected. However, we will do everything we can in order to stay true to this process, protect everyone involved, and work hand-in-hand with the County Health Department to keep us safe. If it is recommended that we have to go virtual for a period of time, then we will follow Health Department recommendations and do so. However, thus far we have been able to manage these situations effectively and safely, and will continue on our current path until such point that we have to pivot.

If you have questions or feel your child was infected for any reason, please contact your school nurses and discuss this with them confidentially. We are here to support you, your family, and the health and well being of the Verona and Oakmont communities. Also, it is important to highlight the multiple safeguards we currently have in place to protect students and staff (shown in the bullets below). As such, there is an extremely low likelihood (and no empirical evidence from the

Health Department) that supports Covid is being spread in schools with safeguards in place. Even if your child is determined to have been in “close contact” with someone infected (which may require quarantine), there is still a very low likelihood that they will contract Covid at school. Riverview has been safer and more conservative than any school we know of, and we have certainly taken the health and safety of the students and staff seriously. The students and staff have done a phenomenal job of adhering to safety guidelines and keeping the school environment safe. Please continue to adhere to health guidelines at home, protect yourself, protect your children, and respect the privacy of anyone that may be infected as cases continue to rise. Continue to contact us with any issues or concerns, and we will work through them as a team.

- Student Masks
- Staff Masks
- Student Desk Shields
- Teacher Desk Shields
- 6ft Spacing
- Cleaning and Disinfecting protocols
- High rated HVAC filters
- Hand hygiene protocols
- Deep cleaning protocols

1. **Masks** – Dr. Levine, our Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, held a press conference yesterday stressing the importance of wearing masks at all times. She strengthened the current mask order by providing more strict measures and mandated masks to be worn around anyone who is not in your immediate family, and whenever you leave your home (either indoors or outdoors). Masks continue to be the best safeguard to protect students and staff, whether at school or at home. I have personally observed students and staff taking this seriously in school, and I urge you and your family to continue to do the same at home. Below (in yellow) is a link to the amended mask order put forth yesterday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, by Dr. Levine:

**[Wolf Administration COVID-19 Announcements: Protecting The Health Care System, New Traveler Testing Order, Strengthened Masking Order, Recommendations For Colleges And Universities](#)**

3. **Travel** – Dr. Levine and the State Department of Health are now requiring a 14-day quarantine for all individuals who travel out of state, and all guests traveling to Pennsylvania as well. She has asked that Pennsylvanians “stay home, stay in their household, and not travel” over the holidays. The CDC also supports these recommendations and is asking that all families stay home and

avoid social gatherings with anyone outside of the immediate family. Therefore, Riverview School District is asking you to stay home, be safe, and do your part to follow the new guidelines and allow us to continue to keep schools open through the holiday season and beyond. The English family will be following these guidelines, and we urge you to do the same. Although not recommended, if you *must* travel, please contact the school health department and adhere to the 14-day quarantine upon your return. Below (in yellow) is a link to the amended travel order put forth yesterday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, by Dr. Levine:

**Wolf Administration COVID-19 Announcements: Protecting The Health Care System, New Traveler Testing Order, Strengthened Masking Order, Recommendations For Colleges And Universities**

1. **Sickness / Symptoms** – As Covid cases are currently high in Allegheny County, please err on the side of caution in terms of sending students to school with symptoms. If they are feeling ill or are exhibiting any of the symptoms shown in the morning checklist guidelines, please keep them home and wait 24 hours after such time that all symptoms subside. This will allow us to continue to stay safe and keep buildings open. Below (in yellow) is the link to the Riverview Morning Checklist:

**Riverview School District COVID-19 Planning, Preparation, and Daily Morning Checklist**

1. **Hybrid Schedule and the Holiday Break** –The upcoming days off WILL NOT affect the split schedules. In other words, if your child normally attends school on Monday and Tuesday, they will continue to do so. If there is a holiday on a Monday, then the A-K students will attend on Tuesday only that week. The same applies to students that attend on Thursdays and Fridays. We hope this helps to clear up any confusion.

We know this was a ton of information, but we want to do our best to keep you informed as this health crisis continues to bend and flex. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday break (*no school on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> through Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>*) and take the much needed time to rest, relax, cook delicious food, and enjoy the company of your immediate families. Thank you for all that you are doing at home to monitor your child's health daily, communicate with the school openly, and support the District as we work in tandem to keep our schools safe and open. We appreciate you!

Go Raiders!

Sincerely,

The Riverview Administration