

Dear Riverview Parents,

As you may have heard, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, under guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, have mandated all Pennsylvania schools experiencing “substantial” spread of Covid-19 (which is almost all schools in PA) to follow new guidelines in regard to the closing of schools.

In the new mandate, if schools choose to continue providing in-person instruction (**which Riverview School District has chosen to do**), the District must now verify that we will follow those guidelines and, if necessary (as cases rise), move to virtual instruction as the mandate requires. In short, what used to be *recommendations* are now *mandates*. It is possible that the constant increase and decrease of cases could create a “yo-yo” effect resulting in buildings being open for short periods of time, followed by closures of several days due to spikes in cases. We have included the new guidelines in the link (in yellow) below. We share this with you because we want you to be prepared to move to virtual instruction if cases continue to rise. We will do everything we can to communicate with you and provide as much lead time as we can, but please have alternate plans in place in case we have to move to intermittent periods of virtual instruction as the new mandates require.

Updated PDE Covid-19 Recommendations Chart

As you know, State and County health officials are extremely concerned about the next two weeks and the two or three weeks following the December/New Year's break. In order to ensure that we can continue with in-person instruction and keep everyone safe, here's what we ask:

1. Require all guests to your home to wear masks (even if you know them).
2. If you or your child are experiencing ANY symptoms at all, *STAY HOME* and continue to keep the school environment safe. Stay home until symptoms subside. If you are unsure of whether or not to send your child, err on the side of caution and keep them home just in case.
3. Follow the guidelines on the **Riverview Morning Checklist** daily (link in yellow).
4. Communicate with the school nurse if you or your family are experiencing symptoms. Our health staff is extremely experienced and can help you with all Covid and health-related issues. We are here to serve you.
5. If your child is currently coming to school in the hybrid model and will be staying home due to symptoms, etc., please let the school and the teachers know.

If you continue to be extra careful at home and we continue to stay vigilant with safety protocols at school, we will get through this together and hope to continue as scheduled. Please note that we believe school is one of the safest environments because we can control the behavior of the students, and we have so many safety protocols in place. As we have said many times, we will continue to provide in-person instruction until we are no longer able. If we do have to go virtual, this should be much easier for us since we have 9 weeks under our belts. If that is the case, however, we will let you know and do our best to get back into school as health conditions and the mandates warrant.

We hope you had a terrific Thanksgiving! Please continue to stay safe, be alert, have backup plans in place, and work with us to get through the next month or so. We will see students in person tomorrow as planned.

Sincerely,

The Riverview Administration