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Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
 Superintendent

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

**Richmond Early Childhood Learning Center
 & Will L. Lee Elementary School**
 68399 Forest
 Richmond, Michigan 48062
 David Kochan, Principal

Richmond Middle School
 35250 Division
 Richmond, Michigan 48062
 Keith Bartels, Principal

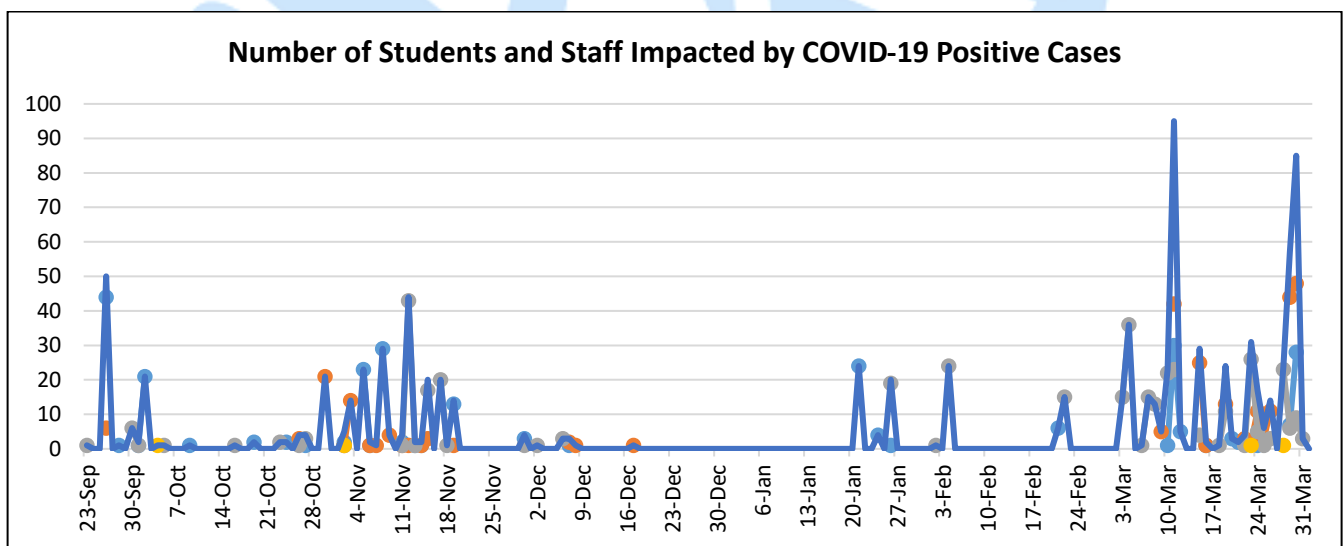
Richmond High School
 35320 Division
 Richmond, Michigan 48062
 Andrew Kastl, Principal

March 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Since the last notification letter, the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) has identified one (1) student/staff persons at Will L. Lee Elementary School, four (4) student/staff persons at Richmond Middle School, five (5) student/staff persons at Richmond High School who have confirmed cases of COVID-19. The MCHD and Richmond Community Schools are working closely to identify persons who may have been exposed. If your child is identified as a close contact, you will receive a telephone call from building administration and a separate communication from a health department staff member.

COVID-19 is having a significant effect on students and staff at Richmond Community Schools. As you can see from the chart below, to date, **922 students/staff persons have been exposed to COVID-19 positive cases AND/OR tested positive for COVID-19**. Some have been or were exposed multiple times. This number only represents what has been reported to the District.



Guaranteed Learning for All Students!

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law,) height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. Inquiries related to any nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent, 35276 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062, (586) 727-3565.

During several recent COVID-19 contact tracings in schools, the District has discovered some parents/guardians have sent their child(ren) to school with COVID-19 symptoms that ultimately turned out to be positive COVID-19 cases. This has unnecessarily exposed dozens and dozens of students and staff as well as resulted in multiple students/staff persons required to be quarantined more than one time. It is extremely important that parents/guardians monitor their children closely and complete at-home screening each day, including a temperature check, prior to sending their child to school. **PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS EXHIBITING ANY SYMPTOMS AND KEEP THEM HOME UNTIL YOU CAN SEE YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.**

Anyone who gets out of their car to pick-up or drop-off their child, including the children, must wear a facemask while on campus. We ask that you respect the District's efforts to protect our students and staff and minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes). Illness begins 2 to 14 days after a person is exposed. The symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy nose, loss of taste or smell, and abdominal pain.

ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND CLOSED TO NON-DISTRICT PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS

Effective immediately, the three gates on the elementary playground will be locked and the playground is closed to non-District personnel and programs. With the recent nice weather, the District is finding that parents/guardians with children are congregating around the playground, without facemasks, before and after school which is increasing the likelihood to spread the COVID-19 virus. After-school childcare uses this area and equipment. This congregation is putting our students and staff at risk.

Remember, our staff have families too. They risk their safety and the safety of their families each day when they encounter individuals who do not follow CDC and MDHHS guidelines. The District is deeply concerned about the risk that a staff member faces because of an exposure at school and bringing the COVID-19 virus home to their families. We all must work together to protect each other. If your political views or beliefs do not align with the CDC guidelines or what the District is required to do because of MDHHS Emergency Orders, please take it up with the legislature and Governor, not school personnel. We continue to focus on providing a safe learning environment, amid a global pandemic, to educate all children.

SPRING BREAK CONCERNS AND 100% VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

With Spring Break just days away and multiple families planning on traveling, the District will be closely monitoring positive COVID-19 cases as well as students and staff exposed to COVID-19 cases during Spring Break. If you, or your child, test positive for COVID-19 or encounter a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 over Spring Break, please follow the CDC and MDHHS guidelines regarding quarantining AND report your situation to the District by calling (586) 727-3565, ext. 6002.

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!

If the infection rate and exposure trends continue as they are, there is a **strong possibility that the District will move to 100% virtual instruction for a period after Spring Break**. Should this happen, you will be notified as soon as possible. Today and tomorrow, each building will be making an announcement instructing all students and staff to take home their laptops and required books and resources for each class prior to Spring Break, just in case the District must move to 100% virtual instruction.

CHANGE IN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL CALENDAR AND EXAM SCHEDULE

Finally, attached you will find a change to the 2020-21 School Calendar. The last week of school, there will be four (4) half days of school, not three (3), for all students. The half days of school are on Tuesday, June 8th, Wednesday, June 9th, Thursday, June 10th, and Friday, June 11th.

The 2nd Semester/Final Exam schedule has also been changed to reflect the adjustments made to the *2020-21 School Calendar* during the last week of school:

Monday, June 7th – 7th Hour Exams at RMS
Tuesday, June 8th – 5th and 6th Hours Exams at RMS and RHS
Wednesday, June 9th – 3rd and 4th Hours Exams at RMS and RHS
Thursday, June 10th – 1st and 2nd Hours Exams at RMS and RHS

Since the start of the school year, **922 STUDENTS AND/OR STAFF PERSONS HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19** and **68 STUDENTS AND/OR STAFF PERSONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES**. If you have questions, feel free to contact us here at school or visit the District's website, www.richmond.k12.mi.us, for more information. Additionally, you may contact the Macomb County Health Department Communicable Disease Program at (586) 783-8190 or visit their website, <https://hcs.macombgov.org/HCS-Home>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

Attachment: Revised 2020-21 School Calendar

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!