

Richmond Community Schools

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

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35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
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April 28, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At Monday's Board of Education meeting, the Board discussed the District's *Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan*, as required by law to be reviewed each month. After discussion, the Board voted to return to in-person learning, beginning Monday, May 3rd with a virtual option still available for families.

You may be asking yourself, *"Do I need to do anything?"*

IF A FAMILY CHOSE VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR THEIR CHILD PRIOR TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH AND WOULD LIKE THEIR CHILD TO CONTINUE LEARNING VIRTUALLY, YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING. The full-day virtual learning schedule will begin on Monday, May 3rd. However, if a family previously chose virtual learning and would like their child to return to in-person learning on Monday, May 3rd, they must notify, via email, their child's principal.

IF A FAMILY CHOSE IN-PERSON LEARNING FOR THEIR CHILD PRIOR TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH AND WOULD LIKE THEIR CHILD TO CONTINUE LEARNING IN-PERSON, YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING. The full-day in-person learning schedule will begin on Monday, May 3rd. However, if a family previously chose in-person learning and would like their child to continue virtual learning on Monday, May 3rd, they must notify, via email, their child's principal **AND** complete the [Virtual/Online Learning Agreement Form](#).

While our staff have done an amazing job, teaching virtual and in-person students at the same time requires additional planning by our teachers and support staff. When the District returns to in-person learning on Monday, May 3rd, families will be expected to continue with the method they chose, i.e. virtual or in-person, until the next opportunity to switch, which will be Friday, May 7th (Starting on Monday, May 10th).

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For the *Class of 2021* parents/guardians, as you consider in-person or virtual instruction for your child, I ask you to keep this in mind:

Graduation is on Wednesday, May 26th. Any senior who tests positive for COVID-19 or is exposed on or around Wednesday, May 12th or after may not be allowed to participate in the Graduation ceremony due to the 14-day quarantine requirement (unless allowed by the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) guidelines listed below).

The MCHD provides a wealth of resources and guidelines for schools as we collectively navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The District follows the guidelines released by the MCHD, has weekly conference calls with MCHD leadership to receive status updates, and regularly checks the website to review any amendments or changes to the guidelines. Here are the latest guidelines for schools as it relates to students and staff:

STUDENTS AND STAFF PERSONS WITH SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19 in students and staff persons include the following. These symptoms should be new or different/worse than baseline for any existing chronic illness.

- Any one (1) of the following: cough, shortness of breath; difficulty breathing, new loss of smell, or new loss of taste **OR** any two (2) or more of the following: subjective fever (felt feverish) or measured temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills or rigors (shaking or exaggerated shivering), muscle aches without another explanation, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose.
- A student or staff person who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms as defined above should not go to school or any school activity.
- If at school or any school activity, they should be sent home. These individuals should be evaluated by a healthcare provider and tested for COVID-19 with a diagnostic test (nose/throat swab).
- If at school or any school activity, the student/staff person should wear a face covering and wait in an isolation area away from other staff and students until they leave the school building.
- Students and staff persons with symptoms (previously described) and who have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 are considered probable cases of COVID-19.

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CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19

- A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 is a confirmed case of COVID-19 if the positive test was a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and a probable case of COVID-19 if the positive test was an antigen test. A person with symptoms (previously described) and who has had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (PCR test or antigen test) is considered a probable case of COVID-19.
- School administration must report any student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 to the Macomb County Health Department (see Return to School Toolkit, Appendix C, COVID-19 Report Form).
- School administration must notify school staff and student families on the school's website when a student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 has been identified in a school maintaining the confidentiality of the student or staff person as required by state and federal laws. School administration may also choose to provide written notification to school staff and student families.
- The Macomb County Health Department will work with the school to identify close contacts of the student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 (see Return to School Toolkit, Appendix D, Contact Tracing Form).
- A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of the student or staff person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic persons, 2 days prior to test specimen collection). The determination of close contact should be made irrespective of the use of face coverings.
- Close contacts should be notified and instructed to remain quarantined at home for 14 days after the last contact with the student or staff person. Day zero (0) is the day of last contact and the quarantine period ends at midnight on day 14.
- The need to close a school for a period of time because of COVID-19 illness will be determined by the district superintendent on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Macomb County Health Department.

CLOSE CONTACTS OF PERSONS WITH CONFIRMED OR PROBABLE COVID-19

- A student or staff person who is a close contact of a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 should be sent home from school and remain quarantined at home for 14 days after the date of last exposure (for non-household contacts). The quarantine period for household contacts is 14 days after the date the person with confirmed or probable

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COVID-19 completes their isolation period if ongoing close household contact cannot be avoided. If ongoing close household contact can be avoided, the quarantine period is 14 days after the date close household contact ended.

- **Students or staff persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 3 months do not need to quarantine** (Note: The school will require documentation to verify a previous positive case).
- **Students or staff persons who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to quarantine** (Note: The school will require documentation of vaccination). Fully vaccinated is defined as 2 weeks or more following receipt of the second dose using a 2-dose series or receipt of one dose using a single dose vaccine.
- Students or staff persons who are contacts of a contact do not need to quarantine for 14 days. Contacts of a contact are persons who have not had direct contact with a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 but instead have had close contact with someone who has had direct contact with a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19.
- **Students or staff persons who are close contacts must remain in quarantine for the full 14-day quarantine period even if they test negative for COVID-19.**
- Students or staff persons who are close contacts and who test positive for COVID19 must be reported to the Macomb County Health Department and managed as previously outlined.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL OR WORK

- Students and staff persons with symptoms who test positive for COVID-19 or who are a probable case of COVID-19 may return to school/work if: (1) at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and** (2) at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** (3) other symptoms have improved.
- Students and staff persons who never had symptoms but who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school/work if at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 test (provided no symptoms appeared during the 10-day period).
- Day zero (0) is the day of symptom onset or the day the positive test specimen was collected (if there were no symptoms). The isolation period ends at midnight on the last day of the isolation period. The last day of isolation is usually day 10 but may be a later day if symptoms have not improved or fever has not resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

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- Students and staff persons with symptoms (previously described) who test negative for COVID-19 (with a PCR test) and who have had no close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 may return to work 24 hours after resolution of fever and improvement of symptoms.
- Students and staff persons with symptoms (previously described) who were not tested for COVID-19 and who have had no close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 may return to work 24 hours after resolution of fever and improvement of symptoms if they present a note from a healthcare provider that provides an alternative explanation for the symptoms. If a healthcare provider note is not available, the staff person may return to work if: (1) at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and** (2) at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** (3) other symptoms have improved.
- Students and staff persons who have traveled (domestic or international) should follow current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. People who have been fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after returning from domestic or international travel.

With about six weeks of school remaining, I know we can finish strong. We all must do our part. Recently I received an email from a parent expressing concerns about the choices some families are making, which is putting others at-risk. This parent wrote that some families were sending their children to school, knowing they were exposed to a positive COVID-19 case and should be quarantined. While the District will reach out to families when we have knowledge, it is not possible, nor is it our job to regulate the choices families are making. We hope that everyone in our community will be honest and follow the guidelines of the CDC and health department. If not for themselves, for students and staff who risk exposure each day. Not to mention the risk to families our staff go home to each night. We all must do our part!

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

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