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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

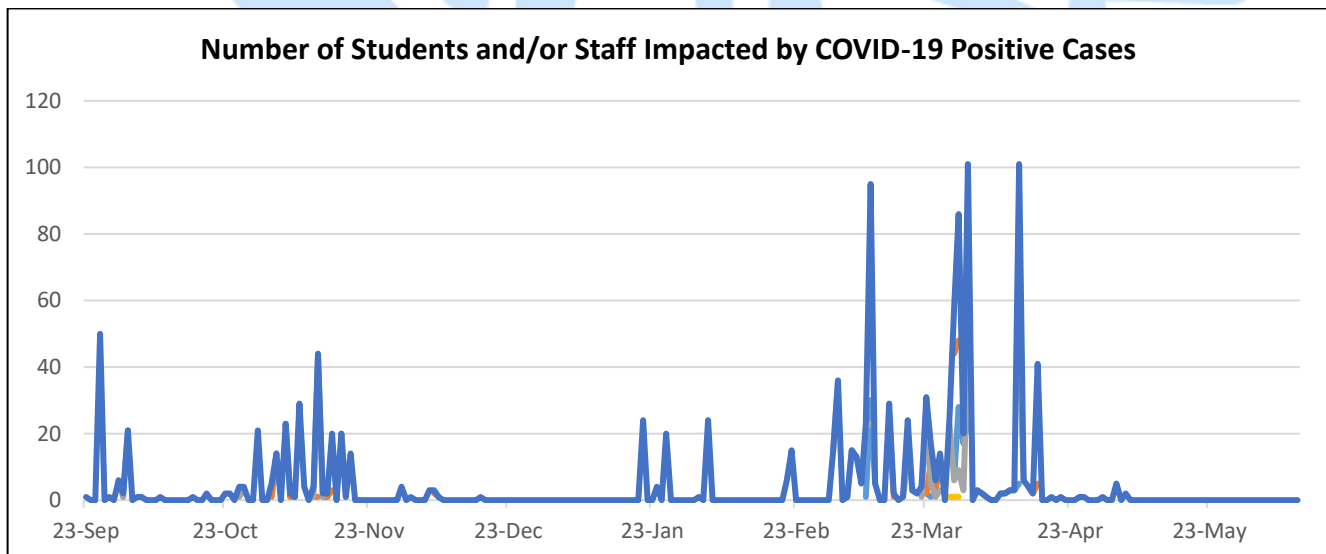
Richmond High School
35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Andrew Kastl, Principal

May 6, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Since the last notification letter, the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) has identified students/staff at **Will L. Lee Elementary 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, **1224 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.



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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.

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.**

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 COVID-19 completes their isolation period if ongoing close household contact cannot be avoided. If ongoing close

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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 COVID-19 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.
- 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

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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.

Since the start of the school year, **1224 students and/or staff persons have been impacted by confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and 117 students and/or staff persons have been identified as confirmed (or probable) 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>.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

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