

RCS NEWSLETTER

April 4, 2021

Dear Richmond Consolidated School Families,

The RCS staff has spent the past two weeks planning and preparing to implement the Commissioner of Education's order to return to 5-day per week in-person instruction by April 5. This week marks the start of that implementation and we are focused on maintaining safety protocols to ensure a safe learning environment.

By the time you read this newsletter you will have received an email from your child's classroom teacher with the schedule we will use for the rest of the school year. As a reminder, students will be dismissed at 1:45 on Wednesdays. The Wednesday early dismissal is necessitated by staffing and contractual conditions.

As you know, the Commissioner directed students to return to school full-time or choose to stay in a remote model. Going forward, we will be working to phase out hybrid learning unless there is a very dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases.

As we head into April break, some of you may choose to travel and will then follow guidelines and quarantine. If you are in quarantine, please do not have the expectation that you will participate in classes live. Teachers will share independent work but need to focus their efforts on students who are in class or fully remote.

Sincerely,

Rob Putnam

Richmond Consolidated School

MA Travel Advisory

As previously communicated, the MA travel order has been replaced with a travel advisory which states that visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival. We are providing further details as questions have been coming into the health office.

Students or staff who travel outside of MA for more than 24 hours are STRONGLY URGED to quarantine for 10 days or receive a negative test prior to return to school, unless one of the following exemptions applies:

~Individuals who have received a negative COVID-19 result on a test administered not more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts.

~Individuals may also test out of the quarantine advisory after arrival in Massachusetts, as long as they quarantine until receiving a negative test result. The test must be an FDA EUA-approved molecular (PCR) SARS-CoV2 test or a BinaxNOW antigen test (no other antigen tests will be accepted)

~Anyone who is returning to Massachusetts after being out of the State for fewer than 24 hours.

~ Individuals who are fully vaccinated (i.e. who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines OR who have received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 14 days or more ago) and who do not have symptoms.

~Individuals who have had PCR-confirmed COVID-19 within 90 days of their travel and who do not have symptoms.

Children 10 and under: Testing for children, 10 years and younger, who are traveling with an adult from their household is not necessary. Children 10 years and younger should follow the quarantine advisory and testing options completed by the household adult they accompanied for travel. If the accompanying adult chooses to quarantine, the child should also quarantine. If the accompanying adult chooses to obtain a test, the child and adult should quarantine until the adult's negative test result is received.

International Travel: All individuals (regardless of age), must quarantine for 10 days or receive a negative test result upon return to MA prior to returning to school (or provide proof of PCR-confirmed COVID-19 infection within 90 days of their travel or proof of being fully vaccinated).

Reference: Mass.gov COVID-19 Travel Advisory – 3/22/21 (updated 04/02/21)

UPDATES

- After a very long and cold winter, it seems spring has finally arrived. With the warmer temperature, comes tick season. Although ticks are more commonly associated with wooded areas, they are also found on grass, in playground areas, and on sports fields. After being outside, it is a good idea to use a lint roller on clothing; this will pick up any ticks on the clothes and be sure to check the skin when undressed. Here is the link to a [brochure](#), which contains valuable information regarding tick prevention. Be sure to check yourself, and your child(ren) frequently for ticks. If you have any questions regarding the information above, please feel free to call me.
- I am happy to say, we will begin having preschool 5 days a week starting next week.

RCS IN THE NEWS

The Berkshire Humane Society publicly thanked Rowan. Instead of a birthday present he asked for money to donate to the Humane Society.

