

RASD COVID 19 UPDATE 10-29-2020

*****THIS UPDATE IS SPECIFIC TO THE RIDGWAY AREA MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL*****

Late Wednesday, October 28, 2020, the District was notified of two additional positive COVID 19 cases at the middle-high school. One case is a non-teaching staff member who was already in quarantine. Due to the quarantine and the timeline for symptom development (October 27, 2020), the District is not required to contact trace for this case per the PA Department of Health Guidelines. No additional students or staff would be considered a “close contact”.

The second case was an 8th grade student/junior football player. Per the PA Department of Health recommendations, the District is proceeding with contact tracing and notification regarding the 8th grade students, junior high football players, and junior high coaching staff. The student was present in school on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. The student’s symptoms began on Friday, October 23, 2020. Contact tracing will extend back to Wednesday, October 21, 2020. Parents of 8th graders and junior high football players determined to be a “close contact” will be notified this morning (10-29-2020) and will be required to quarantine for 14 days from the point of last known contact.

Currently, Ridgway is in “moderate spread” and Elk County is in “substantial spread”. As of 10-28-2020, the Ridgway Middle-High School has 4 positive cases within a 14-day period. **Per the PDE Guidelines for Instructional Model Transition and Community Level Transmission (<https://rasd.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/10/Determining-Instructional-Models-School-District-Closure.pdf>), RMHS will be closing for in person instruction from Friday, October 30 through and including Friday November 6 (8 days).** The maintenance and custodial staff will engage in deep cleaning of the Ridgway Middle and High School according to the CDC guidelines. All RMHS students will transition to full remote learning using R-Learning/Schoology Platform.

THIS INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL TRANSITION DOES NOT IMPACT IN PERSON INSTRUCTION AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. FSG WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FOR IN PERSON INSTRUCTION.

FULL REMOTE LEARNING TRANSITION AT RMHS: All 6-12 students will log into their Schoology accounts daily, according to their current schedule. During each class period, teachers will provide live streamed instruction to students. All course content, assessments, and assignments will be in the student’s Schoology account. Students will submit assignment through Schoology. In order to get credit for attendance students must log in for each class period and be present for live streamed instruction. Students must turn in assignments on time and make sure they are completed to the best of their ability.

Friday, October 30, 2020 was a previously scheduled in service day. Full remote learning for RMHS will begin on Monday, November 2 through and including Friday November 6, 2020. The school administration will work with the PA Departments of Health and Education to analyze local data and to make a determination as to when it is safe to return students to in person instruction. Please direct questions or concerns regarding Schoology/R-Learning to Mr. Podpora, RMHS Principal at podporathomas@rasd.us or Mr. Hofmann, RMHS Assistant Principal at hofmannshawn@rasd.us. Please direct questions or concerns regarding COVID 19 and Instructional Model Transitions to Mrs. Heather McMahon-Vargas at mcmahonheather@rasd.us.