

RASD COVID STATUS UPDATE
(10-22-2020)

As a small rural community, regardless of our differences, there has always been strength in our commitment to each other. We are a community that cares for and helps one another in our times of need. We need each other now, to keep COVID out of Ridgway and to keep our students in school and engaged in the athletics and extra-curriculars that they love!

You can help simply by wearing a face covering in public, maintaining a social distance of at least 6ft from others not in your household, avoiding gatherings, washing your hands, and staying home if you are sick. As a District, 95% of our students are participating in in person instruction and our COVID statistics are low. Together we can keep it this way!

RASD Data (as of 10-22-2020):

RASD has no students/staff positive for COVID 19; no in school close contacts of students/staff with individuals positive for COVID 19; and RASD has not been required to participate in contact tracing through the PA Department of Health.

Excluded for COVID Testing – 5 students/1 adult
Positive for COVID test – 0
Contacted by PA DOH for Exposure (parent/community) – 0
Contacted by PA DOH Contact Tracing needs done in school. – 0
Close contact exclusion (in contact with someone positive for COVID) – 3 students/2 adults

County/Community Data (as of 10-22-2020):

During the previous 7-day window (Oct 8-15), Elk County was in a moderate level of community spread. The positive COVID 19 cases in Elk County have increased through the past 7-day window (Oct 16-22). Ridgway had 1 positive case in the past 7-day window (for Oct 16-22) - 29/30 COVID tests in Ridgway have been negative. Ridgway currently has a low level of community spread.

RASD’s Plan of Action for the Week of October 26-30, 2020:

1. Continue to reduce risks of community/school spread by cancelling athletic events with school districts in a substantial level of spread at the community level. The District will maintain competitions with school districts that are in low to moderate level of spread in their community.
2. For the current 7-day window (Oct 16-22), Elk County may be moved to the substantial level of community spread due to the number of active cases within the 7-day window. IF this happens, because our community and school data is low for active COVID 19

cases, **Ridgway will maintain in person instruction for October 26-30.** Remember, October 30 is a teacher in-service day, no school for students. This was previously planned.

3. Our district, staff, and community are working really hard to keep each other safe during the 1st nine weeks. However, we understand parents may have concerns regarding the increasing COVID 19 cases in the county. Parents/guardians who are concerned may choose to utilize R-Learning temporarily for their individual child's instruction. Call your child's principal if you want to transition to R-Learning.
4. RASD staff and administration are assessing our readiness to transition to full remote learning in the event of a school outbreak or PA Department of Health or Education direct a temporary closure (2-14 days).
5. To be as prepared as possible, teachers are making sure their Schoology classes are updated, that a resource deployment plan is in place, that students know and understand how to access their Schoology classes, that students can use conferencing (for live instruction), and that all parents have access to their student's Schoology classes. The middle and high school will hold a locker clean out at least 1 time per nine weeks as has been done in the past. Lockers can get quite messy at times.
6. We will continue to maintain open lines of communication with county superintendents, PDE, PA Department of Health, the RASD faculty and staff, our families, and our community.

The above plan of action is based on local data (school district and community) and PDE guidance at <https://rasd.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/10/Determining-Instructional-Models-School-District-Closure.pdf>

Per PDE and PA Department of Health, "in order to confirm stability of county transmission, schools should wait to see the results from the next 7-day reporting period (which would be Oct 22-29) before considering a change of instructional model". Also, if counties/school districts "experience an outbreak per PDE, the PA Department of Health will provide proactive consultative services."