



RASD COVID STATUS UPDATE

10-26-2020

The District has 1 non-teaching staff member positive for COVID 19. As a result of contact tracing by the PA Department of Health, 5 non-teaching staff members and 1 teaching staff member have been quarantined for 14 days for close contact with the positive case. No students were exposed in school to the positive case. This directly affects the middle and high support staff, administration and one faculty member.

Elk County Superintendents consulted with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the PA Department of Health this morning at 9:00 am. Elk County is being moved to a “substantial level” of community transmission. Elk County is permitted to continue with in person/virtual/hybrid learning through the week. Elk County’s status will be reviewed by PDE and DOH and if the “substantial status” continues for the current 7 days, the superintendents will be required to meet with both agencies again next Monday. Continued substantial spread will likely result in additional recommendations.

The Ridgway Area School District will maintain the following action plan regarding instruction for the week of October 26-30. This is the same plan previously shared with District staff and families on Friday, October 23, 2020.

1. Ridgway will maintain in person instruction for grades k-12 from October 26-30. Remember, October 30 is a teacher in-service day, no school for students. This was previously planned.
2. Ridgway is cancelling all after school athletic and extra-curricular activities and events for the week of October 26-30, 2020. This includes athletic competitions, practices, homework club, and campus centers. All RASD campuses are closed to after school activities.
3. Parents/guardians who are concerned with increasing cases of COVID 19 in the county 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 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/.../Determining-Instructional-Models...>

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

Please continue to wear face coverings, maintain a social distance of 6ft, wash your hands, and stay home if you are sick. Please stay safe and healthy!