



**RASD COVID 19 UPDATE
(11-19-2020)**

The Ridgway Area School District will be open for in person instruction from Monday, November 23-Wednesday, November 25, 2020. As planned, RASD students and staff will begin Thanksgiving break starting with a 1-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, through Monday, November 30, 2020. At this time, in-person classes are expected to resume for RASD on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Elk County was designated in the “substantial level” of community transmission for the 2nd week. As of November 19, 2020, the Ridgway community has 6 active cases of COVID 19, the positivity rate (PR) is 15.79% and the incident rate (IR) is 94.97%. Through consultation with local health care providers and the PA DOH Elk County nurse, Ridgway Schools have no active cases being investigated related to COVID 19.

School based data includes the following (as of 11-18-2020):

Excluded for COVID Testing - 13 students
Positive for COVID test - 2 students/2 adults
Contacted by PA DOH for Exposure (parent/community) - 0 students/0 adults
Contacted by PA DOH Contact Tracing needs done in school - 0 students/0 adults
Close contact exclusion (positive COVID test) - 48 students*/4 adults

*exclusion for close contact with a positive case in school environment

In compliance with the recommendations and guidelines from the PA Departments of Health and Education, RASD is operating a hybrid model in which families may choose from in person instruction or R-Learning. R-Learning is voluntary and for students who are quarantined or isolated. At this time, local community and school based data does not support a transition to full remote learning.

On November 18, 2020 a new order was issued by PA’s Secretary of Health related to face coverings and travel quarantine. This goes into effect on Friday. At this time, the District is reviewing this order and is seeking input of the District’s solicitor. The superintendent will share an additional update with the community regarding what changes may be needed to comply with the order.

Remember, if you are sick, stay home; wear a face covering; keep 6ft of physical distance from others; wash or sanitize your hands often; and avoid gatherings. As always, thank you for working with us to keep our schools open and our students engaged!