



Ridgway Area School District  
COVID 19 Update - January 4, 2021

Dear RASD Students, Families and Community,

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wish you and your families the healthiest and safest New Year possible.

With every decision made since March 13, 2020, the District has kept the health, safety and welfare of students, staff and the community at the forefront. The District, when given the opportunity, has used local data specific to our community (zip code) when making decisions. Throughout the process the District has used a team approach to decision making. The District's core pandemic team met Wednesday (12/30) to review current county and zip code data, to analyze trends, and to discuss the instructional models.

**CURRENT DATA:** Unfortunately, Elk County is high in terms of COVID 19 spread and cases. In reviewing the data for Ridgway, the positivity rate is the highest it has been for our zip code. As of 1-3-2021 the positivity rate for Ridgway is 76.36%; 42/55 people tested are positive for the past 7 days. The incident rate is 664.77 per 100,000 people. The total new positives for the past 7 days is 42 cases. In addition, the hospitalizations are increasing. There is concern that the community will not see the post-holiday surge for two weeks. Our case counts will likely get worse, which puts staff and students at increased risk of exposure and congregate gatherings increase the potential for transmission.

**INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL IMPLEMENTATION DECISION:**

Week of January 4-8	FULL REMOTE LEARNING
Week of January 11-15	FULL REMOTE LEARNING

Given the data, the decision to remain fully remote is the District's best chance to keep staff and students as safe as possible; to not contribute to the spread during a time when spread is going to be high due to holiday gatherings; to not contribute to the stress on our small rural medical community; and to be able to get back to in person instruction and maintain it for the rest of the year. Finally, we do not want to lose a single staff member or student to this virus - our goal needs to be that everyone makes it through this.

We recognize the academic, social and emotional stressors that our students are facing due to the totality of the circumstances of the pandemic. The District has a variety of supports and services available to students and families during these difficult times: school counseling resources, mental health resources, and academic support. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's building principal or school counselor for additional information regarding these resources.

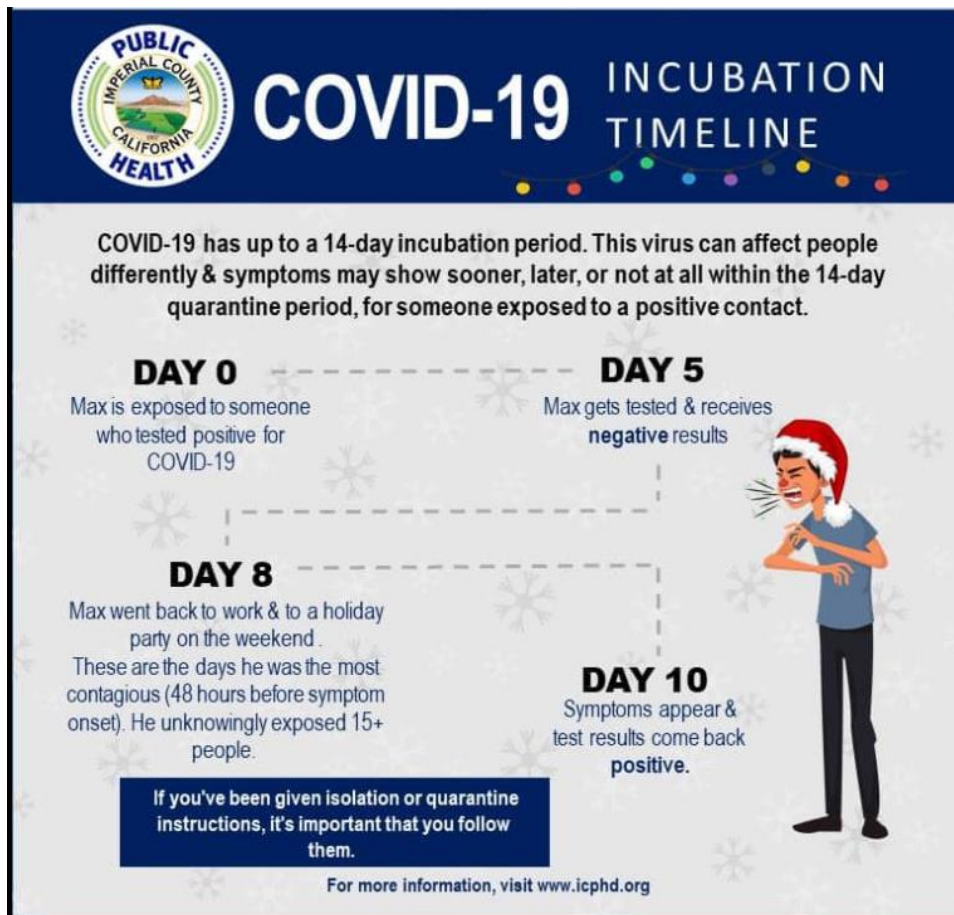
FSG Mrs. Pam Yeager, FSG Principal – [yeagerpam@rasd.us](mailto:yeagerpam@rasd.us) or (814)776-2176  
Mrs. Roben Dagher, FSG Counselor – [dagherroben@rasd.us](mailto:dagherroben@rasd.us) or (814)776-2176

RMHS Mr. Thomas Podpora, RMHS Principal – [podporathomas@rasd.us](mailto:podporathomas@rasd.us) or (814)-773-3164  
Mr. Shawn Hofmann, RMHS Assist. Principal – [hofmannshawn@rasd.us](mailto:hofmannshawn@rasd.us)  
Ms. P Schaut, RMHS School Counselor – [schautpatricia@rasd.us](mailto:schautpatricia@rasd.us)

Please stay safe! Wear a face covering when you leave your house. Stay 6ft from others. Avoid gatherings of people outside your immediate household. Wash and sanitize your hands. The only way out of this pandemic is through it. We want every single one of you here when things get back to normal.

Sincerely,

Heather A. McMahon-Vargas  
RASD Superintendent



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
IMPERIAL COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

# COVID-19 INCUBATION TIMELINE

COVID-19 has up to a 14-day incubation period. This virus can affect people differently & symptoms may show sooner, later, or not at all within the 14-day quarantine period, for someone exposed to a positive contact.

**DAY 0**  
Max is exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19

**DAY 5**  
Max gets tested & receives **negative** results

**DAY 8**  
Max went back to work & to a holiday party on the weekend. These are the days he was the most contagious (48 hours before symptom onset). He unknowingly exposed 15+ people.

**DAY 10**  
Symptoms appear & test results come back **positive**.

If you've been given isolation or quarantine instructions, it's important that you follow them.

For more information, visit [www.icphd.org](http://www.icphd.org)

The infographic features a timeline with dashed lines connecting key events. A cartoon character wearing a Santa hat is shown coughing, with lines indicating the spread of the virus. The background is decorated with snowflakes and a string of colorful lights.