



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

October 26, 2020

Dear Faculty and Families,

As shared in my Friday communication, there has been a recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across Ridgefield. I am writing to you today to communicate that due to this increase, we are shifting learning models.

Given the uptick in local cases over the last five days, RPS is transitioning into a **moderate risk model**. This decision has been made collaboratively with the Ridgefield Director of Public Health, Ed Briggs, and our District Medical Advisor, Dr. James Ahern. In our Reopening Plan, a moderate risk model includes a "hybrid" model with Wednesdays being used for deep cleaning between A and B cohorts, while both cohorts remote learn on this day.

Effective tomorrow, the elementary schools will transition to the hybrid model in the moderate risk scenario. We do not have information right now indicating that there is active COVID-19 spread among elementary school students. This means that elementary students will return to their A/B cohorts, with Wednesdays as "full remote" learning days. Elementary students with IEPs are offered the opportunity to attend school in person for the four days of the hybrid model.

While the entire district has transitioned to the moderate-risk scenario, our middle and high schools will implement a **temporary remote learning model** for students for the next two weeks. Beginning tomorrow, returning November 10th, all 6-12th grade students will be remote learning as a result of unconnected, positive cases at the secondary level with no known source of exposure. These cases have required a substantial number of students and staff to quarantine. Our Director of Public Health has recommended that we reduce the density of the population inside these schools given the events of the last three days.

Elementary, middle, and high school faculty and staff will continue to report and work from their school buildings, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as planned for in the moderate risk scenario. All faculty and staff will work remotely on Wednesdays. Parameters will be implemented to limit faculty and staff exposure and interaction with one another.

You can expect additional information from your school principal later today on class and/or period schedules, as well as the Wednesday schedule.

We would like to thank the Ridgefield community, and specifically Ed Briggs for his guidance throughout this process.

Respectfully,

Susie