

Many have asked what the District's plan is in response to the increased number of positive Covid cases in our region. Whiteside County currently has a 25% positivity rate. Fulton and Albany have a 13% positivity rate. Daily we see an increased number of student and staff quarantines due to close contact. Thankfully our district positive student rate remains low around .5 to 1%. The District has tracked student and staff positive and quarantine rates since the beginning of the school year. We plan to make this information public on our web page at the following link: <https://www.riverbendschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5fb69a3fa83d8>

As a response to the increased cases in our region, **the administrative team recommended a slight change following the week of Thanksgiving.** As a way to prepare for any future remote learning, the middle school and elementary schools will be using a remote planning day on Monday, November 30th, which means students will not be in session. Fulton High School will conduct a remote learning day which means **high school students will be on-line on Monday, November 30th.** The remote planning day and remote learning day both count as a calendar day and do not require the district to modify the school calendar.

FES K-5th grade:

- **Monday Nov. 30th Remote planning day - NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE.**
- **Tues-Friday December 1-4 full on-site daily classes.**
- **Monday, December 7 - Full on-site learning for ALL Students**
- **PK plan will be sent to PK families**

RBMS/FHS 6-12 grade:

- **RBMS Monday Nov 30th Remote planning day - NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE.**
- **FHS Monday Nov 30th Remote learning day- STUDENT ATTENDANCE**
- **Tues Anchor Students in person learning; Boat Students online learning**
- **Wed - Anchor Students online learning; Boat Students in person learning**
- **Thurs - Anchor Students in person learning; Boat students online learning**
- **Friday -Anchor Students online learning; Boat Students in person learning**
- **Monday, December 7 - Full on site learning for ALL Students**

Having experienced a larger number of quarantines and positive student cases at RBMS and FHS, we feel this model will help each building address the needs of the students and staff while at the same time utilize safety precautions the week following Thanksgiving. Principals will provide specific plans for their buildings. RBMS and FHS students will be expected to join classes remotely when they are not on-site Tuesday-Friday. This will allow us to continue instruction each day. **Please note that if during the Thanksgiving break the district experiences a high number of positive cases, we will communicate any changes to this plan.**

On a very exciting note, River Bend has been granted permission to begin rapid Covid testing for students and staff at school. Several details need to be worked out and we hope to have a plan ready to share after the Thanksgiving break. The rapid testing will allow us to rule out

Covid when students or staff experience Covid symptoms. Rapid testing will not reduce quarantine times but allow those with symptoms to get back into the classroom much sooner.

This is a highly challenging time for all of us and I hope you are able to enjoy our short Thanksgiving break. We will keep you posted as we track data and positive cases the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gratefully- Darryl Hogue