

Subject: Return to School 2022 - January 2, 2022

River Bend Families,

I hope your holiday break was relaxing and enjoyable. I wanted to provide a quick update for the return of students on Tuesday, January 4th.

Our goal continues to do all that we can to keep students at school. A few challenges have surfaced with five and possibly a sixth staff member testing positive at various times over the break. Thankfully most are able to return when school resumes. Our region continues to experience high positive case numbers. Student/staff safety and staff availability will continue to guide our actions as we monitor cases following the break.

1. If your child has Covid symptoms please contact the district office at 815-589-2711 to schedule a rapid test for Monday. **It is important that you do not send students to school with symptoms.**
2. If a student or family member had a positive test and if he or she is within the 10 day home isolation period please stay home and contact the school secretary to notify them.
3. If a student or family member had a positive test and if he or she is beyond the 10 day home isolation period of time contact the school nurse via email on Monday at lrlogis@riverbendschools.net so that additional information can be gathered.
4. At this point, ISBE and IDPH have stated that schools are not included in the new CDC five day reduced isolation period. The following was sent to superintendents yesterday by the State Supt:

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) [announced](#) yesterday that **schools should continue to follow the current [IDPH COVID-19 School Guidance](#)**, including for isolation and quarantine times. IDPH has adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation to reduce the number of days for isolation and quarantine for the **general public**.

The CDC expects to issue updated guidance for isolation and quarantine in school settings shortly. We understand that you are eager for this guidance, and we share your sense of urgency. At this time, please continue to follow the guidance currently in place. ISBE is working with IDPH to update the School Guidance as soon as we know more.

5. As you have done in the past, please continue to notify staff when you have symptoms or think you might have symptoms. The district is able to provide rapid and or saliva PCR tests as needed.

I am confident that we can meet these challenges that lie ahead and look forward to our students returning.

Darryl Hogue