

September 27, 2020

To: All Staff, Students & Parent(s) or Guardian(s) at Rib Lake School District

Over the past three days, we have been informed that Rib Lake High School students have tested positive for COVID-19. We have been actively working in collaboration with the Taylor County Health Department to determine the best course of action for both the student population and the district.

The district and Taylor County Health Department have decided to have the high school students only complete at-home virtual learning for the week of September 28. This move is being made partly as a precautionary measure to reduce the risk factors by not congregating students. Due to the highly involved nature of our students, there was a sizable number of students who were considered close contacts. Going to all virtual learning will give all students the ability to learn and not fall behind. We also see this decision as in the best interest of sustaining long term in-class learning and possibly limiting the community from any exposure.

High School students should check their Google Classroom tomorrow for assignments and classroom learning. Students learning remotely will continue to utilize the same A/B block schedule with tomorrow being an A day. Teachers will use the scheduled class time to perform instruction (live or recorded), facilitate activities, assess, and contact students. Students who need their Chromebook or other materials can get these by calling the high school at 715-427-3220 to make arrangements for pick up.

We were also informed that a person at Rib Lake Middle School has tested positive for COVID-19. We actively worked in collaboration with the Taylor County Health Department and did not identify any students or staff who were considered close contacts. Based on this information, Taylor County Health Department does not see a need to go to virtual learning at the PK-8 levels. To reiterate, the elementary and middle school will be having in-person instruction this week.

The School District and the Health Department will not include specific names, staff groups, or other information to protect the privacy rights of the individuals as required by law.

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About COVID-19

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new coronavirus. It spreads from person to person through droplets created when we cough, sneeze, talk, sing, or laugh. Most people—especially young people—who get COVID-19 have mild illness, similar to having a cold or the flu. However, in others it can cause severe illness, such as pneumonia.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature 100.4° F or higher)
- Trouble breathing
- Muscle/body aches
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Cough
- Chills
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Fatigue

The CDC's website has more information about COVID-19: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

What to Expect

If your child had close contact with a person with COVID-19, you will receive contact from the Price County Health Department or the Taylor County Health Department with special instructions about monitoring symptoms, testing, and how to keep others in your home from getting sick. If your child did not have close contact with a person with COVID-19 in our school, you will not receive any additional contact.

Prevent Further Spread

The School District of Rib Lake encourages all staff, students, and families to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Everyone in your household should continue to stay home as much as possible, wash their hands frequently, practice physical distancing by keeping six feet away from others while indoors or outdoors, wear a face covering in public places, watch for symptoms of COVID-19, and seek medical care when sick. These precautions will help keep you healthy and increase our ability to keep our school open. If you know your child has an underlying health condition, you may wish to discuss the option of switching to online instruction with your healthcare provider.

The following guidelines will help to prevent further spread of illness at our school:

- Notify the school if your child is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Notify the school if your child had contact with someone who you know was diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Keep students home from school if they are sick.
- Encourage good habits: frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, using face coverings in public, and staying home as much as possible.

If you have any questions, please call Judy LeMaster, RN, District School Nurse at 715-427-3222 x.3250 or Rick Cardey at 715-427-3222 x.3550.

Sincerely,

Rick Cardey
District Administrator

Judy LeMaster, RN
District School Nurse