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Ramapo Return to Remote Instruction

1 message

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To: bbelthoff@rih.org

Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 3:17 PM



Ramapo Indian Hills Regional H.S. District

Ramapo Return to Remote Instruction

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that Ramapo High School has experienced a cluster of laboratory confirmed positive cases for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The cluster of cases have emerged over the last 14 days. At this point in time, our investigation has not revealed a clear connection between several of the reported cases.

As per Board of Education Policy 1648, the district is coordinating and collaborating closely with the Bergen County Department of Health and following their guidance and recommendations in order to assure the health and safety of our community. As such, beginning tomorrow, November 19th, all in-person instruction, athletics, and extracurricular activities are suspended through December 2nd.

Our Pandemic Response Team provided all known information surrounding the cluster of cases to the Bergen County Department of Health to ensure we identified anyone who may have been considered a close contact of the COVID-19 positive individuals. The Bergen County Health Department recommended a considerable number of identified students and staff be directed to quarantine out of an abundance of caution. The impacted individuals are in the process of being contacted by our administration and nurses.

These precautionary measures are designed to break potential transmission chains and to provide time for potentially exposed individuals to develop symptoms while not in school. (It should be noted

that during our previous pause of the hybrid schedule, we had additional Covid-19 positive cases reported that were resolved without causing an outbreak in the school.) The two week closure also allows time for further understanding of the local COVID-19 situation (e.g., community spread) and increases social distancing amongst the immediate school community.

We strongly believe that closing will provide us with the best chance to preserve as much of the in-person school year and related activities as possible. We believe that in-person experiences for school and extracurricular activities are the ideal and we are hopeful that taking these actions at this time will allow us to return to an in-person model as soon as possible.

Therefore, following the recommendation of the Bergen County Department of Health as per Board of Education Policy 1648, Ramapo High School will shift to full remote instruction beginning tomorrow, November 19th. We plan to return to the hybrid in-person schedule on Thursday, December 3rd. The virtual classes will follow our published schedule for hybrid learning which is posted daily on the district website. Doing so will allow for the continuity of learning districtwide. **Additionally, all in-person extracurricular activities and athletics will be postponed during this closure and school grounds will be closed to the school and community.**

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are [sick](#);
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

Additionally and equally important, please keep your child home from school if any of the following apply;

- Your child has had a known [close contact](#) with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days
- **Your child has had a laboratory test for COVID-19 and the results are pending**
- Your child has traveled outside the State of New Jersey to an [area of high community transmission](#)

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact your building administrator, your child's class administrator, or the school nurse. Below are some resources that might be helpful.

RESOURCES

1. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml
2. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
3. Symptoms of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
4. Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>, <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>
5. How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
6. What to Do if You Are Sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Sincerely,

Michael Marano, Acting Superintendent

Travis Smith, Principal

Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District

Ramapo High School

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Ramapo Indian Hills H.S District

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