

River Forest Community School Corporation

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Dr. Steven C. Disney, Jr., Superintendent

Mr. Kevin M. Trezak, Assistant Superintendent

December 9, 2020

Dear River Forest Families, Students, and Staff:

We continue to work with the Lake County Health Department and monitor data from the Indiana State Department of Health on a daily basis to assess the COVID-19 Lake County data. As per Lake County Health Department and the Indiana State Department of Health, we specifically look at the *All Tests 7-day rolling average* and the *Unique Tests 7-day rolling average* for the positivity rates in Lake County. Yesterday, these positivity rates increased. The *All Tests 7-day rolling average* for Lake County was 18.1% and the *Unique Tests 7-day rolling average* was 26.9%. As we reported on November 11th, the *All Tests 7-day rolling average* was 14.4% and the *Unique Tests 7-day rolling average* was 21.2%. We are seeing an increase as a result of the Thanksgiving holiday. Today, December 9, 2020, the *Post Tribune* reported, "Indiana has the nation's second highest per-capita COVID-19 spread according to the CDC."

Winter break will come to a close on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021. At the River Forest School Board meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, the decision was made to continue and extend virtual/remote learning for students for the first week (January 4th to January 8th) following the Winter break. We will plan for students to return for in-person learning on Monday, January 11th, 2021 if parents/guardians have selected that learning option. Parents and students will still have the choice to remain in virtual/remote learning for the spring semester.

This decision was made based upon the safety of students, staff and community. This extended week of virtual learning will provide for more time to elapse following the New Year's holiday. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 spread and base decisions on the safety of students and staff with the understanding that conditions can change. We appreciate everyone's support and efforts during this pandemic crisis.

In the next few months, the Federal Government will be implementing a nationwide plan for vaccine administration. This will give us all hope that following these trying months, we will make a turn as a country to defeat this pandemic. 2021 will be a great New Year!

We continue to ask all in our community to take precautions to wear masks, wash hands, and stay home when you are sick. Thank you for your help in working with us together on behalf of our children. If you have further questions, please contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Disney

River Forest Superintendent

Paula Thompson, RN

River Forest Director of Health Services