

Bill Kimball Ed. D.  
Superintendent

John Muldoon Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent

Martha Gagner  
Business Manager



Andrea Racek  
Special Education Director

Stephanie Ripley  
Early Childhood Programs

Alexis Hoyt  
Student Support Director

Casey Provost  
Human Resources Coordinator

January 9, 2022

Hello MRUSD Community –

On Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Secretary of Education, Dr. Dan French, issued a statement notifying schools that there will be significant changes to how the schools will respond to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The Secretary asked us to be ready to stop contact tracing to modify our student testing protocols. Additionally, he clearly stated that more detailed guidance would be issued tomorrow, Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout the pandemic, Dr. French has consistently released news of changes in protocol before written documentation and has been clear that schools should wait for written guidance before acting. The volume of recent information related to COVID-19 is bound to cause stress and confusion; because of this, I'd like to communicate clearly to you that Maple Run Unified School District will continue our current safety protocols while we wait for written instructions from the state.

Until we receive these documents, the following will continue at Maple Run Unified School District:

- Maple Run will use the Department of Health's definition of close contact and who needs to quarantine. As of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Health has determined that students between the ages of 5 and 17, who have completed their Pfizer vaccination series more than two weeks ago, do NOT need to quarantine unless they are symptomatic.
- For students enrolled in our **Test-to-Stay program**, the testing site on Market Street or at the Fairfield School will be **OPEN** for Monday morning to test. Students eligible for Test to Stay must continue with the program to attend school.
- Surveillance testing will run as per usual on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Children and staff who have already signed up to participate should plan to test.
- Last week MRUSD documented over 45 cases of COVID-19 in school, and many more students stayed home and tested positive for COVID-19 outside of the school. It will take time for our staff to contact everyone who is close contact; we appreciate your patience.
- For students and staff who feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home.

- If your child is eligible for a booster shot, please sign up for one on the [state's registration system](#). We are working with the Franklin County Department of Health to schedule clinics at our schools but have no concrete information to share currently.

I know these recent developments create additional stress and anxiety on top of what the ongoing pandemic has already caused. Our goal is to safely keep as many staff and students as possible in school. As we receive new guidance and make changes to support this goal, we will update the Maple Run Community as soon as possible. Please stay tuned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Kimball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being more prominent than the last name "Kimball".

Bill Kimball

Superintendent of Schools