



RUSD Headline News Wednesday, November 18, 2020

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please make sure to read the IMPORTANT INFORMATION contained in this letter.

As we move through the continually changing landscape of the pandemic, we are often making decisions in real time, so I want to communicate news as quickly as possible.

Distance Learning in Effect the Week following Thanksgiving and Winter Recess:

We have made the incredibly tough decision to provide distance learning to all students the week after Thanksgiving and Winter recess. Students in grades K-8 will shift to their distance learning schedule from **November 30 – December 4** and **January 5 – 8**. January 4th is a Staff Development day so students will not be in distance learning on this day.

Marin Re-enters Tier 2 (Red):

As you may have heard, Marin County has fallen back into Tier 2 (Red) of COVID-19 spread with these [daily trends](#). Case counts in Belvedere and Tiburon alone have gone up almost 11% in 4 days (from 91 on 11/13 to 101 on 11/17). Re-entering Tier 2 means restrictions have been placed on businesses as well as schools as it relates to the Tier 1 & 2 [decision tree](#) that indicates when families must keep their children home from school due to illness or quarantine.

There has been confusion around whether family members must stay in quarantine if someone in their household has tested positive for COVID-19. RUSD requires children who live with the person who has tested positive to quarantine for 14 days before they can return to school.

Safety Considerations for the Thanksgiving Holiday:

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time to connect with family and friends. I had previously shared recommendations and guidance from Public Health that families should observe during the [upcoming holidays](#). We need everyone in

our community to be vigilant in following these recommendations. While both California and Marin County Public Health do not currently recommend travel, we understand that there still are many RUSD families and staff traveling or having family or friends visit them in Marin. Since the spread of COVID-19 in our country is higher than Marin, the chances of exposure are higher than normal.

Our goal is always to provide a safe environment for our students to learn. While we understand that shifting to distance learning after the holiday recess is inconvenient for most families, it is intended to enable our students to return to school safely and to keep our schools open and progressing toward our Phase 3 transition of students returning to campus.

We **strongly** suggest that if families travel or attend gatherings, they return home for the full week of distance learning so they can self-quarantine in our community and be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to in-person instruction.

COVID-19 Testing for Families:

The district has scheduled three full days of testing on December 1-3, and we strongly encourage ALL family members and students to get tested at that time, especially those who have traveled and seen family and friends from outside of their normal social bubbles. While the district cannot require testing, this added layer of assurance will give everyone - families, staff, and students - confidence that our schools are doing everything we can do to reduce community spread of COVID-19.

RUSD has secured the services of PMH Laboratory, Inc. to provide RUSD staff and the district community with COVID-19 testing. The testing for COVID-19 will take place at all RUSD school campuses. The testing cost is covered via your health insurance. You must provide a copy of your insurance card (front and back).

RUSD COVID-19 Testing Information

When/Where:

Tuesday, December 1 @Del Mar Middle School

Wednesday, December 2 @Reed School

Thursday, December 3 @Bel Aire School

Time Frame: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

What You Need to Bring

You will need to **BRING THE FOLLOWING COMPLETED FORMS** (linked below) with you on the day of testing:

1. [Patient Test Request Form](#)
2. [Venous Consent Form \(antibody test only\)](#)
3. [Authorization Form to Disclose Results \(optional\)](#)
4. [Uninsured Patient Form \(if no health insurance coverage\)](#)
5. A photocopy of the front and back of your medical insurance card

Please note: The school office will not be able to make copies for you.

You can receive either an antigen or live COVID-19 test. You can make an appointment for yourself and family members.

Currently, the calendar is set up to allow for one appointment per time slot. We will keep a close eye on the calendar and will adjust to allow for additional appointments per time slot if needed.

Please click on the calendar links below to schedule an appointment time for COVID-19 testing at the site of your choice.

[Click Here to Schedule COVID-19 Testing – Tuesday, 12/1 at Del Mar Middle School](#)

[Click Here to Schedule COVID-19 Testing – Wednesday, 12/2 at Reed School](#)

[Click Here to Schedule COVID-19 Testing – Thursday, 12/3 at Bel Aire School](#)

Once registered, the online scheduler will send reminders by email and text message 24 hours and 2 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. The calendar will be open through **November 25, 2020**.

Accessing Results

Results will be available on PMH Laboratory's portal within 72 hours, *after receipt by laboratory*. [Click here](#) for step by step instructions. Any questions about results should be emailed directly to results@agileforce.com.

If you have questions regarding this testing event, please contact Carlos Estrella at cestrella@reedschools.org.

Giving Thanks:

As we enter the holiday season, I want to express my gratitude for our deep partnership we have with families during these really difficult times. We are all feeling pandemic exhaustion and have hope that the promised vaccines will be available soon. I am so appreciative for the engagement of our community in sharing their talents, expertise, time and resources in support of our students and the programs we are able to offer as a result of this generosity. Together we are helping our students each day to continue their academic and social-emotional growth as is demonstrated in student progress reports at the end of the trimester.

Have questions or comments?

Click on the **Parent Feedback Form**

<https://forms.gle/za2oJqs8dHJww3LQ8>. This link provides an easy way to ask questions or make comments that will inform content of future newsletters and provide feedback on areas that are working well or not so well as we move through the current school year during the global pandemic. We will continue to use this link when things resume to "normal" in the future. A few of our District Communications Committee members will regularly check this link for new questions and comments and will be able to help respond to questions promptly.

Warm regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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20-21
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