

River Forest Community School Corporation

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Dr. Steven C. Disney, Jr., Superintendent

Mr. Kevin M. Trezak, Assistant Superintendent

October 28, 2020

Dear River Forest Families, Students, and Staff:

We have been working with the Lake County Health Department and monitoring 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 7-day rolling average for the positivity rate in Lake County. As reported last week in the NWI Times, "the seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases in Northwest Indiana increased 250% within the past month." On Tuesday, October 27th, the 7-day positivity rate average had increased to 9.6% and the unique positivity rate had increased to 14.1% in Lake County.

In the last few days River Forest has also had an increase of positive cases reported. As a precautionary measure, per contact tracing, more students have quarantined. We have had a significant number of staff quarantined. **In the best interest of students, staff, and community, we have made the decision to temporarily pause in-person learning and shift to virtual learning for all students for the next two weeks.** This decision was made in consultation with the River Forest Health Services Director, Lake County Board of Health, IDOE, and the River Forest School Board.

Virtual learning will begin for all River Forest Middle and High School students on Thursday, October 29th, and in-person learning students will be scheduled to return on Monday, November 16, 2020.

For Evans and Meister Elementary in person students, they will finish this week and virtual learning will begin on Monday, November 2nd, 2020. In person elementary students will be scheduled to return on Monday, November 16, 2020.

If you have specific questions, please contact your student's building principal. Each school will be providing students with additional information.

As COVID-19 increases in Northwest Indiana, we 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Disney

River Forest Superintendent

Paula Thompson, RN

River Forest Director of Health Services