



January 11, 2021

Dear RCS Families,

On Friday, Jan. 8, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provided new guidance for in-person instruction and reinforced infection control measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread in schools.

The state's goal is to have all Michigan school districts offer an in-person learning option for students no later than March 1. This timeline aligns with the recommendations of the Rochester Community School District's task force.

At this time, students enrolled in in-person learning can expect to return to face-to-face instruction by cohorts using the following phased-in approach.

- Jan. 25: Elementary and some special education populations
- Feb. 1: Middle school
- Feb. 8: High school

Key considerations when creating this timeline included: safety, learning content, contact time, food services, transportation, staffing and stability, along with federal, state and local guidance.

The staggered approach to in-person instruction ensures the smoothest transition possible for our students and provides the opportunity to evaluate processes and make improvements before the next level returns to their building.

All plans remain flexible depending on conditions. We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 cases within our district so our teams can effectively serve our students. The safety of children and adults remains our priority.

Class schedules will be provided as soon as they are available at the secondary level. For your awareness, the last day for first-semester work is Jan. 15, which gives our teams the weekend and two work days to create schedules in time for the new semester to begin on Jan. 20. Although our system was never intended to enable scheduling by semester, we are adapting to accommodate the ever-changing environment.

Moving forward, our task force continues to explore options to enhance the hybrid schedules. For example at the secondary level, to limit the amount of time that students would be maskless in a building, an 11:50 a.m. dismissal time with a grab-and-go lunch is being evaluated. The task force is also working to ensure daily teacher contact time with less asynchronous time.

Please continue to check your email for updated information within the next week.

You may be aware that Oakland County educators, pre-K – grade 12, may now register for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment; however, the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) currently has a limited vaccine supply. Availability is expected to increase in the coming weeks and months,

and appointment access will increase accordingly. We will continue to keep our community informed of any updates.

We recognize that families may have questions or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to your building administrator who will be glad to assist. Families can also use the Talk to RCS feature on our website at www.rochester.k12.mi.us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Debi Fragomeni

Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning