

## RISD COVID-19 UPDATES

### FROM THE OFFICE OF KATIE McCLAIN, RISD NURSING SUPERVISOR

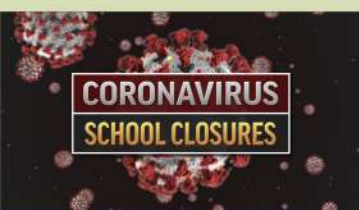
Dear RISD Employees, Parents and Guardians:

As you all are aware, we have had to move three of our schools to virtual learning temporarily due to COVID-19 rapid responses. I know there are a lot of questions being asked regarding the NM state rapid response system as well as our closure procedures. I would like to take a moment to try and explain these processes with you all so you are better informed and therefore able to make informed-based decisions for your child(ren).



A "rapid response" in a school refers to a positive case reported to the building in which the labconfirmed infected individual (staff or student) was in the building during their infectious period. The infectious period is considered to start two (2) days prior to the onset of symptoms and extend for 10 days after onset of symptoms. For those who test positive but do not have symptoms, their infectious period begins two (2) days prior to their COVID test date and extends 10 days after the test was taken.

Rapid responses are counted by the state for each day they are reported, not each individual case. This means that you may have 5 positive cases reported to a school in a day but they would count as one (1) rapid response with the NM Environment Department (ED). It is our understanding that the ED groups rapid responses together over the span of 72 hours. As an example, if one of our schools had a positive case yesterday, today and tomorrow, that school would have ONE rapid response. At four (4) rapid responses (which could be more than 4 positive cases) we must, per the NM PED, switch to virtual learning for 14 calendar days. Rapid responses are no longer counted against a school after 14 calendar days.



The RISD does NOT take school closures lightly. We are actively trying to keep our students where they belong which is undoubtedly in the classroom. We are in constant communication with the NM ED, PED and Department of Health regarding possible upcoming closures so if we can make any accommodations that could prevent closure we are able to do so.

We understand your frustration and assure you that we are continuing to do our best to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any further questions regarding rapid responses or COVID-19. Please continue to wash your hands, social distance to the best extent possible, stay home with any symptoms of illness, and wear appropriate face coverings when around others. Thank you for your patience and cooperation,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie McClain BSN RN".

Katie McClain BSN RN  
RISD Nursing Supervisor