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Richmond Consolidated School

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Dear RCS Families,

Today Governor Baker, along with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, released “Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance.” Our Re-Opening Team will be reviewing this document in collaboration with our union and other colleagues in the coming weeks and will be working on three potential scenarios for reopening in the fall:

1. Full session for all students with safety precautions in place
2. A hybrid of in-person and remote learning
3. Remote learning

This initial guidance places its priority on students returning to school in safe ways--option number 1 in the list above. Current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school with preventive measures in place, including masks/face coverings, physical distancing, hand washing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

- *Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above and for all adults; they are recommended for students in Grade 1 and below*
- *Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been recommended for classrooms*

While the Commissioner of Education has communicated the parameters in which we must work, our local context matters in this planning process, and there will be flexibility for communities and regions based on their unique situations. Our plans to fully reopen will include plans for both students and staff that are unable to return to in-person schooling due to a health sensitivity.

In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to families and other stakeholders via surveys and other means to inform our planning. We still don’t have all the answers, but as the summer progresses, we will do our best to maintain open communication and provide timely updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

Jill Pompei

