



BIG SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

December 14, 2021

Big Springs Parents,

Please read through this entire important message. As you are aware from yesterday's message, positive cases of COVID-19 have been increasing here at school among staff and students, and RISD Health Services has been in regular contact with our public health authority, Dallas County Health and Human Services, about our situation.

Last evening and this morning, a number of additional positive cases have been reported among students and staff, with more students and staff symptomatic and/or awaiting test results. Our school has had 24 positive cases among students and staff reported since Monday. In addition, 17% of our entire campus is absent today, including 30% of our staff.

Today, Dallas County Health and Human Services recommended that in-person instruction at Big Springs be suspended for the remainder of the week to prevent further transmission of the virus at school, and all instruction at Big Springs Elementary will shift to virtual starting Thursday, December 16 through the end of the semester on Friday, December 17.

This means there will be no in person school or school activities beginning Wednesday, December 15. Wednesday will be treated as a student holiday as staff prepare for virtual instruction. Starting Thursday, December 16, students will learn from home using their school iPad for the final two days of the semester.

Students will bring home their assigned iPad and charger from school today, and parents should check for an email message for next steps related to Zoom links and accessing teacher classroom web pages or apps for learning resources for the virtual learning that will begin Thursday.

Next Steps

Tuesday, **December 14**: Students bring home school iPads.

Wednesday, **December 15**: Teachers prepare for virtual instruction - student holiday

Thursday, **December 16** and Friday, **December 17**: Virtual instruction using student iPad

December 18 - January 3 - RISD Winter Break

Tuesday, **January 4**: return to in person learning to begin second semester

During this shift to virtual, if your student becomes symptomatic or tests positive, we ask that you continue to inform Big Springs nurse Kellie.Oates@risd.org as you normally would.



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If your child is not at school today, please contact the Asst. Principal at Deidra.Wilson@risd.org to arrange a time to come to school to pick up their iPad so they may continue their learning from home if they are feeling well enough. Please also let the school know if your family needs to borrow an internet hotspot to aid virtual instruction.

Families interested in assistance with free meals for the remainder of the week may contact RISD Child Nutrition at 469-593-0101 or visit <https://richardsonisdchildnutrition.com/> and click on curbside meals.

If you have other school-related questions, please email Vincent.Dawes@risd.org. If you have COVID-related questions, please email Ashley.Jones@risd.org.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work to keep students and staff healthy during the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Vince Dawes
Big Springs Principal

Ashley Jones
Executive Director
RISD Health Services