



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

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December 30, 2020

Dear DeRuyter Community:

There are several updates, so please take a moment and read through this entire letter.

- The New York State Health Department has adopted the CDC guidelines and changed quarantine requirements from 14 days to 10 days. They have stated this is a retroactive change, so all of our community that was put into a 14-day quarantine on December 22nd, 2020 **will** be off of quarantine by the end of day this Friday, January 1st, 2021. You may not receive a change order from the Health Department and are advised to reach out to them to get your quarantine order changed. This is very ***important***, however, you are only allowed out of quarantine after 10 days ***IF*** you show zero symptoms of COVID -19.
- Isolation has not changed and anyone who has been isolated (usually means they have a positive designation) still has to fulfil the isolation requirement.
- Based on the new quarantine guidelines, we will have all students and staff back next Monday, January 4th, 2021 for in-person instruction (grades 9-12 hybrid) who have fulfilled their 10-day quarantine or who have not had any quarantine or isolation orders.
- **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** do not send your children to school who are symptomatic. We know that this virus can present itself many different ways. If your child is showing symptoms of COVID-19 please keep them home and follow the procedures we have been using since September. Our main goal is to educate your children and want to stay in-person as long as we can. You may think it is the common cold but please don't take that chance.
- As an added precaution we will be taking student temperatures as they board the bus or first enter the building. Temperatures will be taken even if the student presents a yellow attestation slip.
- Also, please be honest with us if you travel out of state and follow the guidelines for reentry to school by following the quarantine requirements. These can be found on your county health department website or the New York State Health Department website. If you ever are unsure, call me, and I am happy to walk you through this.
- The County Health Department is overwhelmed with positive cases and has been working tirelessly to communicate. However, there can be a lag time in their communication. You have been a wonderful community who has communicated with the district and ask that you continue to do so. If you, or someone in your household, tests positive, or asked to quarantine due to COVID-19, can you please reach out to me and let me know? Many times we have been able to work quickly because we knew before the county contacts us.
- As of today, December 30, 2020, we are still waiting for guidance for moving forward for any athletic opportunities for our Rocket Athletes.

We are humbled by the outreach you have shown during the last four months. We have had a long stretch of in-person instruction and limited exposure to this virus. We need to be diligent after the holidays and remember to follow the guidelines so we can continue to educate your children each and every day. On behalf of everyone in the district, we wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to 2021 with optimism and hope.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brown

Dr. David M. Brown
Superintendent of Schools