



December 17, 2021

Dear Riverside Families,

“Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.” —Karl Barth

Here at Riverside we have a great deal to be joyful about.

Celebrations:

- THANK YOU TO OUR PTO!!! The Teacher Appreciation bags were AMAZING!
- On Monday, December 20, at 2:45 p.m. the Grade 5 Chorus will be singing seasonal songs. Each child may have two parents attend. Masks must be worn. Social distancing must be observed.

- After School Clubs are now available for registration until December 23. Please go to <https://www.homerom.com/sites/riverside-elementary-princeton> to view and register.
 - Scholarships are available. Please contact rosannaduran@princetonk12.org if you are interested.
 - Spaces are available for students in our Special Education program. If your student requires an aide to participate, please reach out to their case manager.

Updates:

- **Tuesday, December 21, 2021, from 8:30 a.m.--3 p.m.**Prospect Ave. and Riverside Drive will be closed off for work by the Princeton Department of Public Works. Please plan accordingly.

Free Vaccination Clinic on Tuesday, Dec. 21, for PPS Families

Please Register

PPS and the Princeton Department of Health are sponsoring a free vaccination clinic from 4-8 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 45 Stockton Street, near Monument Hall. To sign up for a vaccination or a booster shot, **please use [this link](#)**

- The Pfizer vaccination will be available for students ages 5 to 11. If students received their first vaccination on Nov. 30, they can receive the second vaccination on Dec. 21.
- Pfizer vaccinations will also be available for students ages 12-18.
- Vaccinations for adults, including booster shots, will be available.
- If you have signed up your student, ages 5 to 11, for a vaccination, they will receive Pfizer/Pediatric Pfizer, which is the only brand authorized for minors.
- Please upload your vaccination card (see instructions below) after your child has received both shots.
- Boosters will be offered to anyone who is eligible. (Those who have had Pfizer or Moderna are eligible for a booster dose 6 months after their second dose. Those who received J & J are eligible 2 months after their initial vaccination.)
- Please remember that you or your child are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the 2nd vaccine.

If you have any questions about boosters or upcoming Princeton Health Department clinics please email Julie Venema at jvenema@princetonnj.gov.

Reminders

- All items in the Lost & Found will be on display in front of the school until Tuesday, December 21.

- If your child is having symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, please keep them home and report the absence by calling Nurse Sarah.

- **Travel Guidelines:**

Princeton continues to be in a public health situation where **unvaccinated students and staff must quarantine after travel lasting 24 hours or longer outside of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York or Delaware.**

- Unvaccinated staff and students must continue to follow the CDC guidelines which require 10 days of quarantine without testing or seven days of quarantine with a negative test taken on day 3-5 after travel.
- The CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated.

Please remember that if an individual received a vaccine, they are not considered fully vaccinated for 2 weeks after the 2nd shot. If you travel during that two-week period, you are traveling as a person who is not fully vaccinated and will still need to follow quarantine requirements upon return. The quarantine days begin from the day after the individual reaches the fully vaccinated status. Please reach out to your school nurse with any questions prior to travel. They will be able to provide specific guidance. This clarification has been provided by our school physician and in collaboration with the Princeton Health Department.

For those who are vaccinated, New Jersey residents returning home after travel do not need to quarantine but should still follow travel guidance from the CDC, the NJ Department of Health, and all local health and safety protocols. Here is more detailed travel information from the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) and from [the CDC](#).

- Please remember to send your child into school with a clean mask daily. If they get dirty while in school we have masks to offer the students. Masks should be changed daily.
 - Cloth masks should never be worn two days in a row.
 - Wearing masks more than once without washing, increases the chance of spreading COVID as well as other illnesses.
 - Wearing dirty masks repeatedly may cause bacterial skin infection and simply is unhygienic as the mask collects nasal secretion and saliva.

Vaccination Card Upload Instructions

To keep students safe and to facilitate contact tracing, we ask that parents **upload their student's vaccination card** into our existing Student Information System, PowerSchool after the student's second shot.

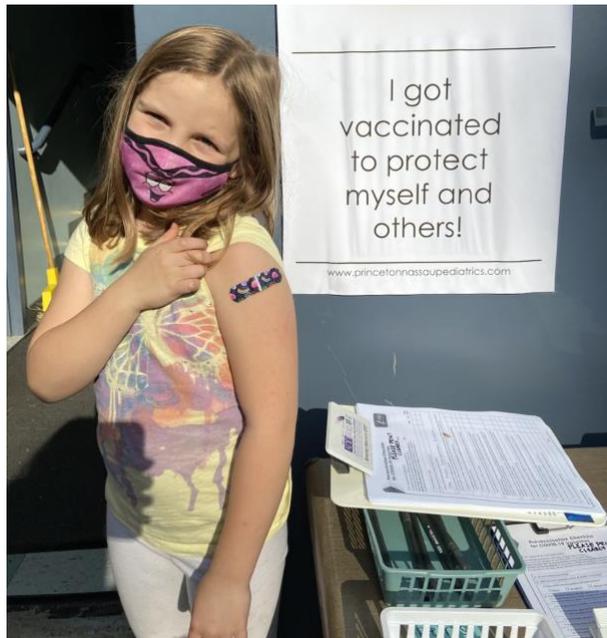
- Contact tracing requires PPS nurses to inquire about each student's vaccination status.
- If a student is named a "close contact," the student will not need to quarantine or miss school if they are in fact vaccinated.

PPS will maintain student confidentiality. Only staff directly involved in contact tracing will have access to vaccination status.

Please see the directions below which are provided in both English and Spanish.

[English Instructions](#)

[En Español](#)



- If you are interested in getting tested for COVID-19, please use this link to find a testing site near you <https://www.princetonnj.gov/999/COVID-19-Testing>

Remote Learning:

As we work together with the local health department, PPS is proactively planning for any potential remote learning response in the coming days or weeks. While we have no current intention of going remote, We DO have a plan. We submitted it to the State on Oct. 29th. We acknowledge that COVID cases are increasing in the area and we also recognize that students may need to quarantine because of positive cases, exposure to positive cases or travel restrictions. Each of those scenarios will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with mitigating factors such as vaccination status. Therefore, this is a general description of what the plan is at this moment. We may change some of what we're setting out if conditions change and/or we receive further guidance from our health officials.

- **Devices.** All students in PK-5 will take their devices and chargers home before Winter Break. We ask parents/guardians to help their child keep the device in a safe place until we return to school on Monday, January 3. All devices and chargers should come back to school on Monday, January 3.

- **Remote Instruction.** We have shared with families the framework of our remote learning response and want to provide that guidance once again:

- 1. If a family is traveling, and a student needs to be quarantined, there is no remote learning option according to the Governor's executive order. Rather, teachers will provide guidance about what a child can do to maintain their studies until they return to school.

- 2. If a student has to quarantine because of exposure and/or a positive COVID test result, remote learning will be available within 24 to 48 hours. Classroom teachers will work with families to provide materials and/or guidance for Canvas and a schedule will be provided so that a.) students can reasonably participate in the lesson and b.) teachers can deliver instruction in a relevant manner.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we continue to teach and learn in a pandemic that does not seem to let up. Transparency, honesty and open communication are critical at this point and we hope that together, we can put procedures in place that will support our learners and our staff.

- There is an area on the playground that has been sectioned off with caution tape due to a leaning tree. Students may play safely in the area of the playground outside of the sectioned area. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to resolve this issue.

- If your student is enrolled in Instrumental Music classes with Mr. Kramer and Ms. Banks, please encourage them to practice daily.

- CrisisGo daily health screening should be completed before 7:50 a.m. daily

- With the cold weather upon us, please make sure your child has appropriate attire for our daily outdoor experiences i.e. recess, mask breaks, etc.

- If you are interested in being a Parent Volunteer at Riverside:

- Please be available for a consistent schedule (once a week is fine, if it is the same time and day of the week)

- Please complete the Parent Volunteer application: [Parent Volunteer Application](#)

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you in providing a safe, healthy and engaging educational experience for our children.

Sincerely,

Ebony Lattimer, Principal