

## COVID-19 Reminders & Updates

**From the Desk of:** Evelyn Savory, principal

**TO:** Parents and Guardians

**RE:** November Reminders & Updates

**DATE:** 11/15/2020

**First Quarter P-T Conferences:** Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules to meet with teachers. The reports from your teachers about their first conference with you have been very positive. I trust you also had a pleasant connection and meaningful discussion to help your child/ren continue on the path of success. Thank you for your commitment to be involved in the academic, spiritual, social, and physical development of your child/ren. We commit to partnering with you in education of your children.

· **RMES COVID-19 Updates:** Please be assured that for the 15 weeks of school RMES teachers and students have been diligent in adhering to the COVID-19 protocols. As you are aware, despite our aggressive action, the dreadful COVID-19 virus continues to spread and affect our families. We are grateful for the privilege of being able to have in-person school and maintain the health and safety each other. Know that we continue to work in partnership with the Health Department, Andrews University, and RMES board to consider the best way to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe during this time of uncertainty. Please be mindful that the decisions each person makes regarding activities, travel, and honest reporting about contact with anyone who has tested positive or is showing symptoms, determines our destiny regarding this pandemic. Every member of our school community has a responsibility to help mitigate this virus. Thank you for your collaboration and support as we seek to think about the health and safety of others.

· **Daily Pre-Screening Mitigation Protocol:** Daily pre-screening is essential. Please remember to utilize the following two pre-screening processes (for the students and yourself) every day:

1. **RMES Jupiter Questionnaire:** We are asking you please maintain the COVID-19 **daily pre-screening** before bringing your child/ren to school. Starting with the Jupiter Questionnaire, which is quick and easy and provides immediate response. The process includes:

- o Only two questions. As soon as you click on the two boxes your reply is recorded.
- o Click "Post" only if you need to comment.
- o Only one parent needs to do the questionnaire.

2. **AU Campus Clear:** This is the COVID-19 pre-screening app for Andrews University. If you are a parent who is an AU employee or student, please make sure you get your GOOD TO GO COVID-19 clearance before bringing your child to school. If you use another pre-screening process, we ask you to please use it, daily. It has been brought to the administration that some parents are not doing RMES COVID-19 Questionnaire nor Campus Clear, daily.

· **Student Stay at Home:** It is vital that you keep your child at home and inform the school immediately if you experience any of the following:

o **If your child or anyone in your household has been exposed for (15 minutes or more) to anyone who has two or more of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat sneezing, , difficulty breathing and unexplained fatigue, muscle or body aches...unexplained fatigue, muscle or body aches, shortness of breath, etc.** We really appreciate your help in keeping our teachers, staff students, and families safe.

· **Thanksgiving Break:** This is a reminder that **RMES Thanksgiving Break is still set for November 25-27, 2020.** We praise God for His protection and a successful 1st Quarter of in-person school. By faith, RMES faculty and staff have committed to continue in-person and synchronous remote learning to the end of the 2nd quarter, December 18, 2020. Prayerfully we will do our best to take all precautionary measures to mitigate the virus spread until we break. In the event that we need to switch to full remote learning, we (the faculty and staff) will be ready for a smooth transition. We encourage you to plan accordingly, as well.

· **Christmas Vacation and 3rd Quarter: For RMES the Christmas Break is December 21-January 08, 2021.** We have changed our start date from January 4 to January 11 to give parents/students and staff, who travelled for the Christmas holidays, adequate time to complete testing and quarantining requirements, per AU guidelines. While this return date aligns our return with AA and AU, please note that RMES will be ready to continue with full in-person and synchronous remote learning, by God's grace. This plan is an attempt to avoid the hassle of our K-8 students having to be set up for one week of remote learning.

· **Travel, Testing, and Quarantining:** If you travel for the holidays, RMES requires that students and employees follow AU Travel guidelines, which require COVID-19 Testing three to four days after travel and submission of a negative report **before** returning to school or work. Students under age 14 will need to be tested by their pediatrician at the medical center/hospital, older students can use AU testing facility. Recognizing the serious upsurge of COVID-19 in our State (including in our Berrien community), across the nation and destinations throughout the world, AU/RMES strongly recommends no travel for the holidays. In her COVID-19 update this evening, Governor Whitmer strongly discouraged travel to family or family visits for the holidays. Her appeal, "Avoid indoor gatherings." For further, please refer to and follow CDC travel guidelines at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html)) and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-risk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-risk.html)..

**Mark your Calendar for the following Important Events:**

- o **Virtual Vocal & Instrumental Christmas Concert: December 15, 2020**
- o **2nd Quarter Ends: December 18, 2020**
- o **School Resumes: January 11, 2020**

Have a blessed week!

"God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and a sound mind." 1Timothy 1:7