

## Re: COVID-19 Holiday Reminders & Updates

**From the Desk of:** Evelyn Savory, principal  
**TO:** Parents and Guardians  
**RE:** November Reminders & Updates  
**DATE:** 11/22/2020

Dear RMES Parents & Students:

With just two days of school before the Thanksgiving Break, this week's reminders and updates will mainly focus on RMES COVID-19 guidelines for a safe holiday and return to school. You will find that some information is repeated. This is to make sure everyone will be clear about RMES expectations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday travel during COVID-19, return to school and remote learning after the holidays. Whether you plan to travel or remain in the local area, please take a moment to familiarize with our guidelines.

**1. Daily Pre-Screening Protocol:** First, we strongly encourage that you please continue daily pre-screening. For the students you may continue using the **RMES Jupiter Questionnaire and for yourself the AU Campus Clear app**. The latter will work as long as you remain on or near the campus.

· If your child or anyone in your household has two or more of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, sneezing, difficulty breathing, unexplained fatigue, muscle or body aches, shortness of breath, etc., we would really appreciate if you and/or your child would stay at home to help keep our teachers, staff students, and other family members safe.

**2. Thanksgiving Break: RMES Thanksgiving Break starts Wednesday, November 25th - Friday 27th.** By faith and as planned, school will resume on **Monday, November 30**. RMES will continue in-person and synchronous remote learning (SRL) to the end of the 2nd quarter, **December 18, 2020**. Prayerfully we will do our best to continue taking all precautionary measures to mitigate the virus spread until we break for Christmas. In the event that we need to switch to full remote learning, we (the faculty and staff) will be ready to help the students make a smooth transition.

· **Thanksgiving Travel Advisory:** Recognizing the serious upsurge of COVID-19 in our State, including in our Berrien Springs community, destinations across the nation and throughout the world, AU & RMES strongly recommend no travel for the Thanksgiving Holidays, as there will not be adequate time for testing and quarantining. See below, RMES requirements for travel, testing, and quarantining based on AU/BCHD travel advisory...

**3. Christmas Vacation and 3rd Quarter: RMES Christmas Break is December 21-January 08, 2021. Please note that the first day of school has been changed from January 4 to January 11.** This plan is intentional to give parents/students and staff, who travelled for the Christmas Holidays adequate time to complete testing and quarantining requirements to be ready for school. While this return date aligns our return with AA and AU, please note that RMES will be starting 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.

**4. In-person and Synchronous Remote Learning (SRL):** This is just a reminder that RMES offers two schooling options, 100% In-person and 100% Synchronous Remote Learning. Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19, flexibility is provided for students who have to stay at home due to sickness or other legitimate reasons that require them to join the SRL classes. Please be

informed that In-person students who would like to join remote classes, must be approved by RMES Administration (office personnel) and the classroom teacher. Parents and students are also required to sign a contract if student will attend SRL. See attached RMES Synchronous Learning Guidelines & Agreement. We welcome any questions and/or comments as we review these guidelines for the next half of the year. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

**5. Travel, Testing, and Quarantining:** If you travel for the holidays or have had exposure to COVID-19, RMES requires that students and employees follow the AU/BCHD guidelines below:

- o Remain at home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or had close contact with or exposure to person diagnosed with COVID-19 –
- o Get COVID-19 Testing three to four days after travel
- o Submit (email) negative report **before** returning to school/work
- o Obtain clearance from school administration or teacher.
- o Students age 14 and above may test at AU campus testing site, but be sure to check their schedule. Services will be closed until January 6.
- o Students under 14 will need to be tested by their pediatrician, at the medical center/hospital.
- o For further, travel guidelines 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).

o According to the CDC, “Travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. **Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.** You can get COVID-19 during your travels. You may feel well and not have any symptoms, but you can still spread COVID-19 to others. You and your travel companions (including children) may spread COVID-19 to other people including your family, friends, and community for 14 days after you were exposed to the virus” (10/21/2020 Update)

We will continue to renew our commitment to COVID-19 risk mitigation through mask wearing, hand sanitizing, disinfecting, and maintaining physical distancing.

God has been gracious and faithful in keeping His promises during this pandemic. We have much for which to be thankful!

**Enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving!**

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