



October 22, 2020

Dear Rivermont Families,

Late this afternoon we learned that a member of the girls' dormitory has tested positive for COVID-19. Some of her friends and dorm mates have tested negative and we are retesting her to rule out a false positive. Because our residential students operate like a big family, tests will be scheduled for all the boarding students.

The administrative team met immediately to discuss the schools' programmatic response. Shifting only the boarding students to remote learning while they await results and requiring day students to attend in-person would decimate the teaching/learning continuity.

Therefore, we have determined that high school classes will be canceled tomorrow, allowing teachers to **prepare for a shift to either response level orange or red, effective Monday**. This shift will allow us to investigate possible contacts, tests, and determine the best path forward. At this time we do not have reason to shift the middle school away from Yellow but we will be considering that option (and more) as we investigate further.

Middle, elementary, and preschool classes will continue tomorrow, in-person, for everyone. At this time we have no reason to suspect anyone other than the boarding (and potentially day high school) students have been exposed to the COVID-positive high school student. As I said before, because her closest friends tested negative, we are retesting her to rule out a false positive.

Communication overload/fatigue is a concern. We've found that many people are not reading communications thoroughly, so please be sure to read all official communications from the administration. The irony is not lost on me that you JUST received a Paw Posting wherein I said our systems effectively stifled the first on-campus potential COVID exposure. There is no reason to suspect, in fact it's highly unlikely, that this positive case is related to the positive case last week. I have tremendous confidence in our team, our students, and families, and I'm hoping our actions will prove effective again.

Please stay tuned for more information.

Best,  
Max