



# Russell Independent Schools

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Dr. M. SEAN HORNE  
Superintendent

September 22, 2020

Dear Russell Family:

We are excited to begin Face to Face Instruction next week! I am very proud of all of our employees who have worked so hard to prepare for our students.

As you may be aware, last week, the Kentucky Department of Public Health along with Governor Beshear announced a color-coded map which is intended to be a metric for monitoring local communities' Covid-19 incidence rates. Each county in Kentucky will be listed as either Green, Yellow, Orange or Red depending on positivity rates. In an effort to be completely transparent, our District will also track student and staff Covid-19 positives, as well as, quarantines. All of this information can be accessed from the District website and is updated daily.

Schools in counties color coded Green and Yellow may have Face-to-Face Instruction, while following the KDE Healthy at Schools Guidance; schools in a county that is Orange are to take 'enhanced measures', and should consult with local health officials and restrict crowds. If a county is Red, Face-to-Face Instruction and all extracurricular activities will be suspended and students will return to Full Time Virtual Instruction.

Greenup County has been coded Orange since the inception of the color-coded map. In the past several days, I have consulted with officials at King's Daughters Medical Center and the Greenup County Health Department, as well as, our District Administrative Staff and the Board of Education. **At this moment we will plan to return to school on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.** As we have all learned from the past several months, this is subject to change. My goal has always been to inform staff, parents and students as early as possible if there is to be a school closure. I always want you to have time to make necessary arrangements for your family. I will still strive to do this as much as possible this school year. I would ask that you monitor the Covid-19 Current Incidence Rate in Kentucky Map. If Greenup County is coded Red, you should be aware that the District will move to the Virtual Model of Instruction very soon. I will always announce our plans via Remind, Media Outlets and Social Media. Once a county is coded Red, schools are not to return to Face-to-Face Instruction until the county is coded Yellow. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing when or if our county will turn Red and we will not have a timeline as to when it would then turn to Yellow status. Should the District need to move to Virtual Instruction I will announce each Thursday the plan of instruction for the following week.

As I have said so many times before, our first priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. We have safety measures in place and we will follow guidance from our State Health Officials to maintain a safe learning environment. I also know that Red Devil Nation is strong and we will get through this together, one day at a time. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. M. Sean Horne  
Superintendent