



RITCHIE COUNTY

SCHOOL DISTRICT

James G. Brown, Superintendent of Schools

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Telephone 304.643.2991 / Fax 304.643.2994

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for all you and your children have done to minimize COVID-19 in our school. We realize this has been a challenging year and has not been easy for students to take the precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but we appreciate they recognized the importance of protecting our school and each other and have truly risen to the challenge.

We are excited we have another tool to protect our students, their families, and our school from COVID-19: vaccination. **Everyone 12 years of age and older is now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination.** Students who are 12 to 17 years of age can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and those 18 years of age and older can receive any of the COVID-19 vaccines.

The COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be effective at preventing COVID-19. Millions of people in the United States and around the world have received COVID-19 vaccines. Top medical experts in WV and around the nation trust COVID-19 vaccines as safe and effective for those 12 and older. New strains of the virus are leading to increased spread among 10 to 30-year-olds, putting our students and their families at risk of severe COVID-19. We want our students protected from COVID-19 and to have the opportunity to return to regular school activities as soon as possible. We know that you and your children do, too. Vaccination will be our safest and quickest path to sports, other extracurricular activities, and a regular school year next fall.

You can schedule a vaccine appointment for you or your teen at a local pharmacy or at Ritchie Regional Health Center by visiting www.vaccines.gov/search. Select the "Pfizer-BioNTech COVID Vaccine" for those who are 12 or 17 years of age. Those 18 and older can select any available COVID-19 vaccine.

Frequently Asked Questions about Teen COVID-19 Vaccination are posted on our district website. If you have additional questions, please visit vaccinate.wv.gov for more information about COVID-19 vaccination and locations, call the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-833-734-0965, or talk to a healthcare provider.

James G. Brown, Superintendent of Schools

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