

RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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Dan Weston, Principal

Dear RCS Community,

Many of our families and students are excited to begin their summer break from school. Even as we conclude this year, we are already looking forward to the next. While this pandemic has brought about changes, the critical role vaccinations play in keeping children, their classmates and communities safe remains unchanged. We hope that the months ahead will be healthy ones, free of vaccine-preventable disease.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has strongly expressed their support for approved COVID-19 vaccines in younger children and adolescents as “key, safe mechanisms that protect individuals and populations against many infectious diseases.” Massachusetts DPH has now authorized providers in the state to begin administering the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to individuals’ age 12 and older.

The responsibility is ours, as a community, to help stop this virus. Now we have a new, safe, and effective tool to help us do that—COVID-19 vaccines.

We ask you and your child(ren) of age to join us in protecting your community by getting vaccinated. Getting vaccinated adds one more layer of protection for you, and your loved ones. Here are some things you should know about COVID-19 vaccination:

- All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are very effective at preventing the disease.
- The most common side effects are pain in the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills, and fever.
- Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available—wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands frequently, and **getting vaccinated**.

Please visit this website by The Berkshire County Vaccine Collaborative to schedule yourself or if your child is age appropriate at: <https://getvaccinatedberkshires.org/announcements-and-news/vaccines-now-available-12-15-yo>

As we approach the end of a challenging year, we thank you again for your continued support and collaboration. We will certainly welcome the return toward normalcy together.

Sincerely,

Dan Weston, Principal

Cristina Lenfest, BSN, RN

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