



2020-2021 Return to School Health Plan Roanoke County Public Schools Updated September 17, 2021

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. This plan describes how Roanoke County Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to Dr. Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration at (540) 536-3900 ext. 10121 or at rstegall@rcps.us.

Current Mandate:

CDC's Federal Order that all passengers and drivers must wear a mask, even if fully vaccinated, while on all public transportation. School buses are not exempt from this order.

The Roanoke County School Board voted on August 6, 2021 to implement indoor masking for students PK-12 (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. This will go into effect August 12, 2021.

The items below are key takeaways from the CDC guidance:

- Priority is to get all students back into the classrooms for in-person instruction.
- Promoting vaccination can help schools return safely to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Due to the impact of the Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- In additions to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distancing between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain 3 feet of distancing, it is important to layer multiple other prevention strategies.
- Continue layered prevention strategies already in place such as screening, ventilation, handwashing, staying home when sick, contact tracing with quarantine protocols, and cleaning and disinfection
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and see a health care professional.
- Continue to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.
- Added recommendation for fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. With mandatory masking, this becomes an option for staff and students and is not a requirement for return to school.

RCPS Guidance Updates:

- Teachers will be instructed to provide brief student mask breaks throughout the day. Mask breaks are managed by the classroom teacher and should be provided in a manner that is reasonable and practicable for student comfort, but without compromising the safety intention of the indoor mask requirement. Mask breaks may be provided on an individual or whole-class basis or in combination. Examples of how to conduct mask breaks include the following; suggested times are meant to provide clarity of intent, rather than rigid times that must be tracked.
 - Individual students could take a quick (i.e. up to 5-10 seconds) break as reasonably needed
 - Individual students who need a slightly longer break (i.e. up to 4-5 minutes) could do so in a designated area of the classroom that is 6 feet from other students (6 feet is used here to avoid “close contact” time from accumulating).
 - Whole-class breaks could be done by taking the class outside for up to 5 minutes (this suggested time limit is intended to minimize interference from instructional time).
 - Whole-class breaks could be done within the classroom through scheduled quick (i.e. up to 5-10 seconds) breaks or slightly longer breaks (i.e. up to 4-5 minutes) by staggering areas of the classroom (this example could be done but may be challenging to manage effectively or in a manner that is natural for students).
- Central office and school staff will wear masks at all times, except when in an individual office space alone beginning August 12, 2021.
- Schools will manage lunches in a way that maximizes physical distancing to the extent practicable. This may be done by splitting the classroom in half for lunch to accommodate physical distancing and using spaces in addition to the cafeteria as practicable to reduce exposures during lunch. Schools may also assign seating for lunch as it will assist with contact tracing as needed.
- Masks will not be required for outdoor activities like recess, physical education classes, outdoor sports and extracurricular activities.
- Athletics and extracurricular activities will begin following the new RCPS Athletic Plan immediately.
- In group meetings, staff should maintain 6 feet of distancing to the extent practicable.
- Masks are mandatory indoors for staff unless they are alone in a private area.
- Principals will allow staff to attend large group meetings virtually while in substantial or high community transmission levels as deemed practicable by the principal and per staff member request.
- Employees should avoid sharing, to the extent practicable, unnecessary rides in cars to avoid potential exposure.
- Staff should maintain 6 feet of distancing when eating together in order to reduce the need for quarantining as cases arise.
- Field trips will be limited while we are in substantial or high community transmission levels.
- For large group student meetings, 3 feet of distancing should be used to the extent practicable, along with masking.
- PK students will be physically distanced at 6 feet while napping and masks will be removed.

Positive case information by school will be tracked on the division website at the following link: <https://www.rcps.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4470> The dashboard will be updated within 24 hours of notification of a positive COVID-19 case. Parent and staff notification letters will not be sent for the 2021-2022 school year since the same information can be accessed on the division website. If a staff member or a student is considered a close contact while at school or on the school bus, the staff member or parents of the student will be personally notified with a phone call from the school nurse.

The health and safety of all Roanoke County Public School children and staff is our priority. RCPS will continue to follow mandates from the public health experts at the Virginia Department of Health, recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, directives of the governor, and guidance from the Virginia Department of Education in our planning and decision-making.

COVID-19 Division Team

Dr. Ken Nicely, Superintendent
Dr. Jessica McClung, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Point of Contact for the Division, rstegall@rcps.us or (540)562-3900 ext. 10121
Mrs. Stephanie Hogan, Executive Director of Elementary Instruction
Mr. Mike Riley, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Ms. Lori Wimbush, Director of Equity and Engagement
Mrs. Charlene Vail, Coordinator of School Health Services
Dr. Shawn Hughes, Director of School Counseling
Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Beth Harman, Director of Special Education
Mr. Chris Lowe, Director of Facilities and Operations
Mr. Chuck Lionberger, Director of Community Relations
Mrs. Susan Peterson, Director of Finance
Mr. Jason Suhr, Director of CTE
Mr. Jeff Terry, Director of Technology
Mr. Ben Williams, Director of Testing
Ms. Hope White, Alleghany Health District, Virginia Department of Health, Epidemiologist – (540) 283-5032

COVID-19 School Contact

Elementary

Back Creek – Sandi Boyd – sboyd@rcps.us
Bonsack – Laurie Dedor – ldedor@rcps.us
Burlington – Beverly Blake – bblake@rcps.us
Cave Spring – Karen Barr – kbarr@rcps.us
Clearbrook – Brooke Carnevali – bcarnevali@rcps.us
Fort Lewis – Stephanie Valentine – svalentine@rcps.us
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Masons Cove – Gail Lee – glee@rcps.us
Mount Pleasant – Terri Booth – tcbooth@rcps.us
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Penn Forest – Marci Podlecki – mpodlecki@rcps.us
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Middle

Cave Spring Middle – Tracy Delaney – tdelaney@rcps.us
Glenvar Middle – Mary Jane Witter – mwitter@rcps.us
Hidden Valley Middle – Sara Cavicchio – scavicchio@rcps.us
Northside Middle – Mary Tershak – mtershak@rcps.us
William Byrd Middle – Molly Rhodes – mrhodes@rcps.us

High

Burton & A-STEP – Charlene Vail – cvail@rcps.us
Cave Spring High – Michelle Hunter – mhunter@rcps.us
Glenvar High – Mary Jane Witter – mwitter@rcps.us
Hidden Valley High – Rike Shores – ushores@rcps.us
Northside High – Christina Powell – cpowell@rcps.us
William Byrd High – Vickie Hawkins – vhawkins@rcps.us

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken the following steps detailed below to maintain health and safety during and following the return to full in-person instruction.

In addition, Roanoke County Public Schools has adopted policies listed below on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Coordination with state and local health officials
- Universal and correct wearing of masks
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
- Diagnostic and screening testing
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Maintaining Health and Safety

Division Participation in Community Response Efforts

The division is in regular communication with the local Roanoke/Alleghany Health Department. Input was sought from the division's Medical Advisory Board as well as the division's Safety Advisory Committee. Area superintendents communicate regularly sharing ideas and plans for maintain health and safety. The superintendent regularly participates in statewide Virginia

Superintendent's meetings where information is shared from the Virginia Department of Education.

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned is below.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Screening, monitoring and testing are essential components of limiting the spread of COVID-19. An important part of keeping our schools safe is actively encouraging sick staff and students to stay home if they are ill and emphasizing to all the importance of knowing the symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with these symptoms or combinations of these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever (CDC defines this as 100.4F or greater, or when one feels warm to the touch, or gives a history of feeling feverish)
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell

Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

COVID-19 Screening Questions

Students and staff should assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 before reporting to school; and/or may be asked the following by school personnel upon arrival:

YES or NO since my last day in the building, have I had any of the following:

- A new fever (100.4F or higher) or a sense of having a fever since you were last in school?
- A new cough or breathing difficulty that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- Chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- A new congestion or runny nose?
- New muscle aches (myalgia) that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise)?
- New cold or allergy symptoms not attributed to another health condition?
- Have you been exposed to anyone who tested positive or suspected positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 14 days? An exposure is defined as physical contact within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more during a 24 hour period.

If an individual answers YES to any of the screening questions before arriving, they should stay home and not enter the building. The staff member will contact the designated administrator and the parent will call and notify the school. The school nurse will call both the staff member and the parent back to walk the parent through an additional assessment and will provide direction based on VDH guidance.

Masks

- All students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask indoors.
- Masks must be made of tightly woven fabric, completely cover your nose and mouth, fit snugly against the sides of your face, and not have slits. The school administration will make the determination if a mask does not meet the specifications recommended by the CDC. In those cases, the school will provide the student with a mask.
- Face covering are required at all times while riding on school buses, even those who are fully vaccinated. This is based on the CDC's Federal Order that applies to all public transportation including school buses. Disposable face coverings will be available on each school bus and in the front office of each school for those who lose or misplace theirs.
- Masks will not be required for outdoor activities like recess, physical education classes, outdoor sports and extracurricular activities.
- PK students will be physically distanced at 6 feet while napping and masks will be removed.
- Teachers will be instructed to provide brief student mask breaks throughout the day. Mask breaks are managed by the classroom teacher and should be provided in a manner that is reasonable and practicable for student comfort, but without compromising the safety intention of the indoor mask requirement. Mask breaks may be provided on an individual or whole-class basis or in combination. Examples of how to conduct mask breaks include the following; suggested times are meant to provide clarity of intent, rather than rigid times that must be tracked.
 - Individual students could take a quick (i.e. up to 5-10 seconds) break as reasonably needed
 - Individual students who need a slightly longer break (i.e. up to 4-5 minutes) could do so in a designated area of the classroom that is 6 feet from other students (6 feet is used here to avoid "close contact" time from accumulating).
 - Whole-class breaks could be done by taking the class outside for up to 5 minutes (this suggested time limit is intended to minimize interference from instructional time).
 - Whole-class breaks could be done within the classroom through scheduled quick (i.e. up to 5-10 seconds) breaks or slightly longer breaks (i.e. up to 4-5 minutes) by staggering areas of the classroom (this example could be done but may be challenging to manage effectively or in a manner that is natural for students).
- Face shields are not recommended without facemasks worn under the shield.
- Central office and school staff will wear masks at all times, except when in an individual office space alone beginning August 12, 2021.

- Masks are mandatory for staff unless they are alone in a private area.

Physical Distancing

- Based on the importance of in-person learning and the effort to get all students back into classrooms, students will be seated less than 3 feet apart in many cases. Distancing of 3 feet will be implemented to the extent practicable.
- Schools will manage lunches in a way that maximizes physical distancing to the extent possible. This may require splitting the classroom in half for lunch to accommodate physical distancing. Schools may also assign seating for lunch as it will assist with contact tracing as needed.
- For large group student meetings, 3 feet of distancing should be used to the extent practicable, along with masking.
- During group meetings, staff should maintain 6 feet of distancing to the extent practicable.
- Principals will allow staff to attend large group meetings virtually while in substantial or high community transmission levels, as deemed practicable by the principal and per staff member request.
- Employees should avoid sharing, to the extent practicable, unnecessary rides in cars to avoid potential exposure.
- Staff should maintain 6 feet of distancing when eating together in order to reduce the need for quarantining as cases arise.
- Field trips will be limited while we are in substantial or high community transmission levels.
- Visitors to schools will be limited during substantial and high community transmission levels.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- The school will teach and encourage hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette by sending information prior to the start of school to all staff and students and will continue this education and encouragement daily at school.
 - Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash immediately
 - Use hand sanitizer throughout the day
- Teachers will encourage and provide time for students to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Schools will post signs and messages in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures, describe how to stop the spread of germs and proper hand washing.

Custodial Services

- Support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, replacement cloth face coverings and no-touch trash cans.
- Schools will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, light switches, sink handles) within the school and on school buses at least daily.

Actions taken to promote Custodial Employee Safety:

Additional hand sanitization stands have been deployed. Staggered start times have been implemented for all crews. The use of facial covering was made mandatory when social distancing (6 ft.) could not be achieved. This applies to both the job site and while driving. Implementing smaller crews working together.

Below are the current strategies employed by RCPS Custodial Staff in the extenuation of the COVID- 19 virus. Please note that RCPS has begun to build additional inventory. However, increased cleaning will likely result in the need to increase staffing. This increase in staffing and material will have a financial impact on the sites.

Inventory: RCPS has been working to procure all needed custodial supplies as made available.

Equipment: RCPS has procured electrostatic sprayers, backpack sprayers, and Clorox 360 machine utilized in the disinfection process. These particular units will be utilized in the cleaning plan to address the disinfecting of classroom space and public gathering areas.

Current Approved Custodial Cleaning Plan- COVID-19:

The attached cleaning specification approved by RCPS and FDA will continue to be used with the following modifications.

Additional cleaners have been added with EPA rated Viruscides.

- Frequencies of cleaning tasks will be modified on a building by building bases, based on occupancy and traffic.
- All touchpoint areas will be disinfected daily. These areas include but are not limited to the following: Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, elevator buttons, railings, vending machines, drinking fountains, push plates, and bathrooms.
- RCPS will be focusing on highly used areas. Providing additional disinfecting and cleaning.
- RCPS will also provide services for specific areas when requested by the site.
- Areas that are not being utilized i.e. Secured/closed areas will be cleaned less frequently and the focus and frequency will be on public spaces and high traffic areas.
- RCPS will be focusing on deep cleaning the building while the majority of the students are not on site.
- RCPS recommends that staff/faculty clean and disinfect their personal items in their office, i.e. Phone, keyboard, mouse, TV and computer. RCPS will supply product based on availability.

- RCPS will provide disinfectant spray bottles and product upon request. RCPS will continue to follow this practice when Staff, Faculty, and Students begin to return.

Process for Special Cleaning: Areas with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure:

RCPS has utilized electric static sprayers, aerosol disinfectant foggers and Clorox 360 Machine to remediate areas that could have been contaminated with the Covid-19. Below is the process for treating the contaminated areas.

- A request will be generated listing specific areas that need disinfecting.
- Any areas having been exposed to the virus will be cleaned by RCPS employees.
- As per recommendation of the CDC, isolation rooms will be cleaned after each use by either a student or staff member.
- If exposure is in common areas, RCPS will disinfect immediately.
- An electrostatic sprayer, Clorox 360 or a canned fog bomb containing an EPA rated virucide will be utilized initially and a wipe down with virucide will be done after the process.
- RCPS will notify the WO initiator once task is complete.

General Cleaning Procedures during COVID-19:

Added safety procedures for the disinfecting process during the COVID-19 Pandemic include the following:

- Change out gloves after each of the following task.
 - Bathroom Cleaning
 - Floor Mopping
 - Office Cleaning
- Utilize spray bottles or a bucket of disinfectant.
- Utilize a two-rag system while cleaning offices. (A rag that is used in an office is then disinfected while another is used in the next office).
- Wipes and rags are both used to clean touch points in the office.
 - Rags are changed out throughout the day
 - Restroom rags are changed out after use
 - Office and hallway/common areas are changed out periodically throughout the day
- Disinfectant utilized in buckets is changed out based on soil loading, or after each restroom cleaning is performed.

Transportation

- **Face coverings required for all students and staff**
- Designated windows will be slightly lowered to increase air flow
- Standardizing disinfectant cleaning products
- Same safety protocols used for all vehicles used by RCPS

Maintenance

- Cleaning ALL HVAC unit coils
- Replacement of all HVAC Filters
- Inspection and Change-out of Filters on 3 month rotation
- Double Outside Air Settings on all HVAC units (this will result in increased utility costs)
- Negative Pressure room – isolation room in each
- All water fountains and water sources will be flushed and inspected prior to opening of school. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to fill rather than drinking directly from the fountain. The fountains will be disinfected regularly throughout the day.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

- The school nurse at each school will serve as the designated COVID-19 point of contact for all parents with concerns. All concerns will then be shared with Charlene Vail, RCPS School Nurse Manager, who will serve as the liaison with the VDH.
- Parents of students who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should notify the school principal and participate in the development of an individual health and education plan.
- Parent volunteers will be allowed to assist with principal approved activities.
- Staff will be trained on all safety protocols prior to the opening of school.
- Students and staff will be directed to complete daily health checks prior to reporting to school.
- Staff who determine they must stay home from work based on the COVID-19 daily health check responses will first contact the principal or designee at their home school. The principal will notify the school nurse who will follow-up with a phone call to the staff member to provide guidance based on each individual situation. If the school nurse recommends the employee to be out of work based on COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, the employee will contact HR to walk through leave options.

Health Protocol

- A system will be in place at each school for students to visit the school nurse that ensures students maintain 3-6 feet distance and allows time for cleaning and disinfecting between visits as needed. The nurse will socially distance students in the clinic as needed to minimize COVID-19 transmission.
- CDC/VDH guidelines will be followed in determining who should go home, be quarantined, how long, and when they can return.
- The school nurse will work directly with parents of students who are exhibiting symptoms or who have been in contact with someone who was positive for COVID-19 and will help develop a health plan. The education plan for each student who must be out of school will be developed with the support of the principal.
- Each student or staff COVID-19 case will be tracked by the school nurse and timelines and protocol for returning to school/work will be monitored using CDC/VDH guidelines
- Nurses will wear a mask and face shield during routine student visits. An N95 mask will be worn if a student presents with COVID-19 like symptoms. Medical grade PPE including N95 mask (with fit testing), gown, gloves and face shield will be worn during aerosol generating procedures. Aerosol generating procedures will be **done in a**

separate room with appropriate ventilation. Healthcare providers are encouraged to treat students with asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions with an inhaler and spacer while at school. Parents should contact their school nurse and healthcare provider to discuss the student's needs. Nurses will follow guidance from VDH/CDC on aerosol generating procedures.

- Masks will be placed on symptomatic students and staff who will then be moved to an isolation area. Exhaust fans have been installed in isolation areas to create negative air pressure.
- All typical health services will be maintained.
- For positive COVID-19 cases, the school division and the VDH will work collaboratively to identify any close contacts in the school and home environment. If the VDH determines there has been an outbreak in a classroom or school, the school division and the VDH will work together to develop a message that will be sent to all staff and students potentially exposed with 24 hours.

Student Instruction during a Quarantine

- Secondary students will access assignments on Blackboard and can communicate with individual teachers as needed using school email.
- Elementary students will be provided a laptop to take home to access assignments on Blackboard. A parent must sign the Acceptable Use Agreement prior to providing a laptop for use at home. If a parent would prefer, paper copies of the assignments can be provided. The parent would need to contact the school to make those arrangements.

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick - Current VDH Recommendations

➤ Current VDH Guidelines:

- https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/Home-IsolationQuarantine-Release-Graphic_FINAL.pdf
- Responding to evolving needs of students, staff and their families during this pandemic will be a priority. As school communities' members get sick, need to care for sick family members, and/or face significant disruption in their personal lives, the school will work with each individual to support to the extent possible.
- If a student/staff is exhibiting symptoms and meets the criteria for possible COVID-19, the school nurse or other designee will immediately place a mask on the student, contact the parent/guardian to come pick the student up, and will have the student wait in an area designated as an isolation area to help contain the virus. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance and the school nurse will only notify the school principal.
- Students/staff who test positive for Covid-19 will need to isolate at home for 10 days from onset of symptoms or test date if asymptomatic.
- Household contact: Persons who have not been vaccinated will need to self-quarantine for 7-14 days per VDH guidelines after the person who is positive for Covid-19 has completed their isolation time or from the last contact with the person who is positive for Covid-19
- Non-household contacts: Persons who have not been vaccinated will need to self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms for 7-14 days after last known exposure to person positive for Covid-19 per VDH guidelines
- Persons who have had an exposure to COVID-19 and have been vaccinated will not need to quarantine. These persons should watch for symptoms of COVID-19 and will

need to stay home if they become symptomatic. If a known case is in the school, the positive case count will be added to the division COVID-19 Dashboard within 24 hours. Contact tracing would need to be completed. There is the possibility of a 2-5 day closure of a classroom or a school to allow VDH officials to trace and determine appropriate next steps. Once the extent of the outbreak is determined, additional days of closure may be recommended up to 14 days. A letter will be sent home to families impacted by a classroom or school closure based on the recommendation and guidance provided by the VDH.

- Closures will be based on advice from VDH and may include quarantine of some students, a class of students and teacher, multiple classes of students and teachers, or the entire school depending on exposure and size of an outbreak. Efforts will be made to cohort students as much as possible. If an entire school is shut down this would include all activities associated with the school.
- Contact tracing takes place when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. The VDH and the school nurse will work together tracing all individuals who were less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes to the positive person. The school nurse will ask questions regarding vaccination status, mask wearing, distancing and time of close contact to determine if anyone has had a potential exposure during the time period defined by the VDH. The time period is based on two days prior to the positive case exhibiting symptoms or two days prior to the test date which resulted in a positive test result. Anyone whose medical provider sends for testing is asked to stay home until test results are back. If the student or staff member was quarantined prior to the designated tracing time period, then no tracing would be needed. The VDH tracer works on the potential exposure outside of the school. The school nurse will determine if there are siblings or family (staff) within the school district and will initiate contact tracing with the nurse from the affected schools. It is also very important to know that students and staff members are quarantined based on a variety of reasons and most never test positive for COVID-19. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times during contact tracing.

Student Return to School

- The school nurse will have a conversation with student's parent and will evaluate circumstances to determine if a pre-existing condition could be the cause of the symptoms.
- If the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition, the nurse will recommend the parent speak to a health care provider.
- If an alternative diagnosis is determined by the health care provider, the student can return based on usual guidance related to the diagnosis. The student/parent should provide a note to return to school.
- If a parent does not contact a health care provider and symptoms improve, the student can return after being symptom free for 72 hours. If symptoms continue beyond 72 hours, it is recommended to follow-up with a health care provider. The student/parent will need to send a note about the absence upon return to school.
- If the health care provider recommends the student be tested and quarantine. Then the student will need to stay at home until test results have returned.

- If the test returns as negative, the student may return to school with a note from a health care provider stating they can return or a copy of the negative COVID-19 test results. Rapid COVID-19 test results will not be accepted for a negative test per VDH unless it is a rapid PCR test. A positive COVID-19 result on a rapid test will be accepted and treated as a positive case for isolation.
- If the student's test is positive, we will follow VDH guidelines for isolation. The school nurse will assist VDH with contact tracing in the school setting. The nurse will follow up with a parent prior to the student returning to school. Student may return to school once isolation requirements are met. If the student continues to be symptomatic on day 10, they should not return to school until fever free without fever-reducing medication and improved symptoms for at least 24 hours. Note: loss of taste and smell might persist for weeks or months and this should NOT delay the end of isolation. Parents of the siblings who attend school or other family members who work in the district will be advised on quarantine based on the situation.
- If someone is considered to have had a close contact to a person suspected of having or testing positive for Covid-19, then we will follow the VDH guidelines for quarantining (either household or non-household contact). VDH recommends that you quarantine, if vaccinated, (stay home) for 14 days after the date of last close contact with the person infected with COVID-19. If you are not able to stay home for 14 days and do not have symptoms, you may leave home earlier:

After 10 days without testing;

or After 7 days with a negative PCR test performed on or after Day 5 (antigen tests are not accepted).

It is very important to continue monitoring for symptoms for 14 days and follow all recommendations (e.g., wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash hands often) during the quarantine time. See the [VDH When to End Home Isolation and Quarantine Infographic](#) for more information.

- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period or having exposure to the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissing) while they were contagious. The defined time starts two days prior to the person becoming symptomatic or testing positive.
- Anyone who is fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine if exposed to a positive person but will need to monitor for symptoms and stay home if any symptoms arise. Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure are encouraged to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. With mandatory masking, this becomes an option for staff and students and is not a requirement for return to school. VDH recommends that a fully vaccinated person, who is identified as a close contact of a positive case, wear a mask which would apply to outside of school as well. The school nurses will advise on testing and mask wearing.
- If the person who is positive and students at 3 feet to 6 feet away are both wearing a mask, then the exposed student will not need to quarantine. (This does not apply to staff members.) If either person is not wearing a mask or are closer than 3 feet, then the exposed person would need to quarantine if not vaccinated. If the positive person is not

wearing a mask, then all close contacts as defined above will need to quarantine if not vaccinated.

- Parents must report any exposure or positive case in a student/household to the school of attendance.
- The principal or school nurse will notify Charlene Vail of any positive cases. Rhonda Stegall will be notified by the building administrator.

Who is Not Required to Quarantine After Exposure

People who:

- Have had COVID-19 within the last 3 months as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as long as they have no symptoms and are not inpatients or residents in a healthcare setting.
 - Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of the second dose in a 2- dose series, or 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine. Proof of vaccination date(s) may be required to determine if a student or staff member meets these criteria. School nurses will make the determination.
 - Healthcare settings include hospitals and long-term care facilities (e.g., nursing homes, assisted living facilities).
- If a person who is positive for Covid-19 and those at 3 to 6 feet away are both wearing a mask, then the exposed student will not need to quarantine. Refer to guidelines above for any time spent without a mask on greater and equal to 15 minutes. (This does not apply to staff members.) Anyone who is beyond six feet is not considered a close contact
- People who are not required to quarantine after exposure must still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days and continue to wear a mask, attempt to stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash hands often

Employee Return to Work

If an alternative diagnosis is determined, the employee can return based on usual guidance. If the employee is out longer than 4 days a note will need to be provided to return to work. These notes should be given to their principal.

NO CONTACT WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

If an employee does not contact a health care provider and symptoms improve, they can return after being symptom free for 72 hours.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RECOMMENDS TESTING AND QUARANTINE FOR SYMPTOMATIC PERSON

- If the health care provider recommends an employee be tested then the staff member will need to stay at home until test results have returned.

- If a staff member is fully vaccinated and is showing symptoms they would need to provide proof of vaccination (CDC card) and a positive COVID-19 PCR test result to qualify for COVID-19 leave. Necessary quarantine time will be designated by the school nurse using the Symptom-based criteria. A COVID-19 PCR test would be expected within 24 hours.
- Staff members who are not fully vaccinated will not qualify for COVID-19 leave but may use any accrued leave.
- First year staff members who do not have any accrued leave will need to notify the school nurse so they can share this information with human resources.
- Negative test: After having symptoms, if the COVID-19 test is negative then the employee will need to get a note from their health care provider stating they can return to work and/or provide a copy of the negative results. The nurse will keep a copy of the letter/results. Rapid COVID-19 test results will not be accepted for a negative test per VDH. These persons should be advised to have a COVID-19 PCR test.
- Positive test: Employees can come back after a positive test once they have met the requirements of the Symptom-based criteria.
- Symptom based criteria – At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.
- The employee may return to work once isolation requirements have been met. If an employee continues to be symptomatic on day 10, they should not return to work until fever free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours and improved symptoms. If employee does not meet the symptom based criteria on day 10, they should contact their health care provider for further advice and obtain a note stating when they can return to work. Note: loss of taste and smell might persist for weeks or months and this should NOT delay the end of isolation.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST IN ASYMPTOMATIC PERSON

A person who has a positive Covid-19 test and has remained asymptomatic will need to isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive test. If person becomes symptomatic, follow guidance above for person who is symptomatic.

The nurses will follow isolation requirements set out by the Virginia Department of Health when advising families and staff. Close contacts need to follow appropriate guidance for household or non-household contacts per the Virginia Department of Health as noted below.

Notify Charlene Vail regarding any known positive cases in the school. (562-3900, ext 29801)

CLOSE CONTACTS

- If someone is a close contact to a person suspected of having or testing positive for Covid-19, we will follow the VDH guidelines for quarantining (either household or non-household contact). VDH recommends that you quarantine (stay home) for 14 days after the date of last close contact with the person infected with COVID-19. If you are not able to stay home for 14 days and do not have symptoms, you may leave home earlier:

After 10 days without testing;

or After 7 days with a negative PCR test performed on or after Day 5 (antigen tests are not accepted).

It is very important to continue monitoring for symptoms for 14 days and follow all recommendations (e.g., wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash hands often) during the quarantine period. See the [VDH When to End Home Isolation and Quarantine Infographic](#) for more information.

- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period having exposure to the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissing) while they were contagious. The defined time starts two days prior to the person becoming symptomatic or testing positive. CDC recommends that asymptomatic people who have a known exposure be tested on day 5 or later after last exposure. **Who is Not Required to Quarantine After Exposure**

People who:

- Have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as long as they have no symptoms and are not inpatients or residents in a healthcare setting.
 - Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of the second dose in a 2- dose series, or 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine. Proof of vaccination date(s) will be required to determine if student or staff member meets these criteria. School nurses will make the determination.
 - Healthcare settings include hospitals and long-term care facilities (e.g., nursing homes, assisted living facilities).

People who are not required to quarantine after exposure must still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. People who are not fully vaccinated should follow all other recommendations until fully vaccinated (mask, distance, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated areas, wash hands often).

Guide for Employees Unable to Return to Work or Requesting Accommodations

All contracted employees of RCPS, regardless of vaccination status, will receive a total of cumulative 8 days of COVID-19 leave this year based on the recommendation of the school nurse. This can also be used to care for a child who has COVID-19 or needs to quarantine or when a childcare facility is closed due to COVID-19.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Roanoke County Public Schools is not currently using diagnostic and screening testing with students or staff.

Vaccination Efforts

Working as a partner with the Roanoke City Alleghany Health Department the school division helped organize optional VDH vaccination clinics for RCPS staff and students age 12-18. School was closed on two days to allow staff to attend the vaccination clinics to receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Bus transportation was provided for students age 12-18, with parent permission, to a school in the division serving as a student vaccinate site during school hours. The vaccination clinics were offered for both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students with disabilities have individualized IEP or 504 plans that consider their individual and unique needs. If additional accommodations and/or services are necessary as a result of health and safety concerns related to the current health crisis, the student's plan outlines these provisions.

Continuity of Services

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Academic needs are currently being met through in-person instructions for all students grades PK-12. Parents who have requested online instruction due to COVID-19 related concerns have been give an online option provided by a third party. For more information, contact Stephanie Hogan, Executive Director of Elementary Instruction at smhogan@rcps.us or Mike Riley, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction at mriley@rcps.us.

Student social, emotional, and mental health needs are currently being met through the following student support provided by school and LIFE counselors:

- Are available for students and their families through phone conferencing, -and individual meetings.
- Will provide programming to meet counseling standards by addressing topics such as social and emotional learning, mental health, Expect Respect bullying prevention, and career education. Counselors will deliver material to students in the classroom.
- Will continue to offer individual and group counseling for students.
- Elementary School Counselors will focus on social and emotional learning through the Second Step curriculum. This will include problem solving, emotion management, and empathy. School counselors will also focus on PBIS Expect Respect and counseling standards along with providing education and activities related to academic/career plans.
- Middle School Counselors will focus on topics such as social and emotional learning through the Second Step curriculum that includes mindset, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution. Counselors will also focus on PBIS expect respect and Counseling SOLs. Additional areas will include enrollments, schedule changes, registration, and academic/career plans.

- High School Counselors will focus on schedule changes, college applications, registration, AP and PSAT testing, dual enrollment, academic/career plans, and graduation requirements.
- LIFE Counselors at the secondary level are available to parents and students to address any mental health need and provide assistance with resources.
- An on-line form will be available for secondary students to request counseling support. In addition, hotline numbers will be provided for 24-hour support during emergencies.
- Resources will also be available on our RCPS School Counseling web page.

Food Service is currently providing meals for all in-person and virtual students during the school day. When classrooms or schools close temporarily due to COVID-19, food service is available to those students for pick-up at the school for the duration of the closure.

Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Roanoke County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

8/12 Public Hearing
 8/16 Parent Advisory Council
 8/22 Student Advisory Council Survey
 8/23 Employee Advisory Committee
 8/24 Principal Meeting
 8/25 SEAC Suggestions

Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Roanoke County Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.rcps.us/domain/1613>;
- The plan is available in multiple languages as it has a translate options associated with the website;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Cammie Williams at crwilliams@rcps.us to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, at rstegall@rcps.us.