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COVID 19 Mitigation Plan 21-22

Rock Ridge Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our faculty, staff, students, and visitors. To ensure we have a safe and healthy workplace and school environment, **Rock Ridge Public Schools** have developed the COVID-19 Operational Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration and directors are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our schools and communities, and that requires full cooperation among our faculty, staff, students, and communities. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons in our school district.

Rock Ridge Public Schools are excited and optimistic for a school year that provides a normal learning environment for our students, faculty, staff, and our community for the 2021-2022 school year. We anticipate a year with full in-person learning 5 days per week for all our schools in grades PreK-12. This plan is subject to change if a situation compromises the health and well-being of our Rock Ridge community at any level or if there is a change in the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health or if mandates are issued. This plan will be in effect in all district-owned facilities.

The Rock Ridge Public Schools COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows the industry guidance developed by the state of Minnesota, which is based upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for COVID-19, Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) statutes, rules, and standards. It addresses:

- Monitoring symptoms and situations
- Testing and vaccination
- Isolation and quarantine
- Confirmed case of COVID-19
- Face coverings
- Social distancing
- Hygiene protocol
- Building and ventilation protocol
- Cleaning and disinfection protocol
- Communications





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2021-2022 COVID-19 Operational Plan

Monitoring symptoms and situations

Rock Ridge Public School will continue to monitor COVID-19 Infection Rates with the Minnesota Department of Health and St. Louis County Public Health. We will also monitor positive cases for the Rock Ridge faculty, staff, and students.

We ask that faculty, staff, and families monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 on a daily basis. We ask that faculty, staff, and students do not attend work or school if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms, as this is imperative to protect the integrity of in-person learning.

What are the SYMPTOMS OF COVID:

More Common Symptoms:

If any ONE of these symptoms occur, your student could have COVID-19.
Refer to #1: What to do if your student develops symptoms of COVID-19.

- Fever 100.4 degrees F or greater
- New cough or cough that gets worse
- Difficulty/hard time breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

If any TWO of these symptoms occur, your student could have COVID-19.
Refer to #1: What to do if your student develops symptoms of COVID-19.

- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Extreme fatigue/feeling very tired
- New severe/very bad headache
- New nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose





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Testing and vaccination

Rock Ridge School District will offer weekly screening tests to staff. Rock Ridge will consider offering tests for students if circumstances deem necessary.

We highly recommend and encourage our faculty, staff, and students to consider getting the COVID-19 vaccination when they are eligible.

Isolation and quarantine

Isolation is recommended when someone tests positive for COVID-19 and a recommended option when a person has symptoms of COVID-19 and is waiting on test results.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must stay at home (isolation) until all three of these things are true:

- They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better; and,
- It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive: and,
- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.

Quarantine is recommended when a person is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is 10 days in length (day one starts on the first day of symptoms). Quarantine is also recommended by the CDC/MDH when someone has a contact exposure to a COVID-19 positive person even if asymptomatic. Our district is NOT requiring quarantine of contact exposures if asymptomatic. Fully vaccinated people who are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.

The procedure at Rock Ridge Public Schools for an individual who develops signs or symptoms of COVID-19 while away from school:

- Inform the school office where you work or the attendance where your student attends school if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Notify of the date symptoms started.
- We strongly recommend that you have your student tested immediately for COVID-19.
- Notify your students' school nursing office if your student tests positive for COVID-19. Provide the school with the positive test result.
- If the person is told by their doctor or other health care provider that their symptoms are from something else (alternate diagnosis), and not from COVID-19, they can then go back to school when they are 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medications and symptoms have improved.
- Provide the school with a negative COVID test result or medical note of alternative diagnosis to return to school prior to the 10 day quarantine period.





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- If the person does not get an evaluation from a doctor or another health care provider or get a COVID-19 test, they should stay at home from activities and school for at least 10 days starting from the time their symptoms started and until their symptoms have improved and they are fever free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

The procedure at Rock Ridge Public Schools for a student who becomes sick, or develops COVID symptoms, while on campus:

- Parent/guardian will be contacted and informed to pick up their student from school.
- We strongly recommend that you have your student tested for COVID-19.
- Students will be provided a mask and encouraged to wear a mask. Students will be cared for in the nursing office until the parent/guardian is able to pick up from school
- Parent/guardian will be informed that their student must remain home 10 days from the onset of symptoms or until they can provide a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider.
- After 10 days, the student may return to school if symptoms have improved and they have been fever free without fever reducing medications for 24 hours.

Fully vaccinated people and those who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days are not recommended to quarantine, in most situations.

- Students in quarantine or isolation will follow traditional methods to make-up coursework unless instructed otherwise by their teacher. Virtual or online learning should not be expected.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to work directly with their child's teacher to make arrangements. All students must complete required coursework.

The Procedure at Rock Ridge for Confirmed case of COVID-19

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 that attended while infectious, the district will notify the Minnesota Department of Health.

- If a staff member is alerted to or learns of a confirmed case, inform your supervisor immediately. More information can be found on the [CDC Website](#).

Parent/Guardian of students who are identified as "close contacts" to a covid positive case in school or affiliated with a school activity will receive an email notification. Close contacts will not be sent home unless there is substantial transmission throughout the classroom and grade.

Parent/Guardian of students will be informed via email when there is a COVID positive case in their students' class.





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If you choose to quarantine your student following contact exposure per the MDH and CDC guidelines, then we recommend that you provide a medical note excusing your child from school for the dates recommended by your healthcare provider.

Members of the same household that are close contacts are recommended to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days (day one of ten starts when the COVID positive household member starts isolation). If household members are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms quarantine is not required. However, that could potentially change if household contacts begin to show signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19.

Face coverings

- Face coverings/masks are required on student transportation. This is a federal requirement and not a rule under the authority of the school district.
- Face coverings/masks are required for all students, staff and visitors while inside any district facilities.
- Face coverings/masks are required for all students, staff and visitors while attending any indoor school event such as athletic contests, concerts, or other events.
- Student athletes will not be required to wear face coverings/masks while competing but will be required to wear face coverings/masks while on the bench or not competing.
- Face coverings/masks will not be required for any outdoor activities, competitions, or events.
- Face coverings/masks will not be required for any students under the age of 2.
- This is subject to change as community COVID ratios reach under 30 per 10,000 for two consecutive reporting periods.

Close Contacts: Persons who were 6 feet or closer for 15 minutes or more to a COVID positive person in a 24 hour period.

- Recommend immediate COVID testing if unvaccinated
- Recommend COVID testing 3-5 days after exposure for fully vaccinated individuals

Close Contact Exemption: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student (s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. The exception as written by CDC applies ONLY to the classroom. If less than 3 feet, the exemption does not apply.





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Social distancing

Social distancing of 3 feet will be encouraged as conditions allow. There are no group size limits (assemblies, concerts, etc). This will continue to be monitored and could change based on conditions in the school setting.

Hygiene protocol

Basic infection prevention measures are being implemented at our workplaces at all times. Staff, students and visitors are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially at the beginning and end of the day, prior to any mealtimes and after using the restroom.

Hygiene etiquette will be demonstrated on posters and will be communicated to staff and students on a regular basis in various forms.

Building and ventilation protocol

Operation of the building in which the workplace is located, includes necessary sanitation, assessment and maintenance of building systems, including water, plumbing, electrical, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. The district follows all EPA, ASHRAE, industry guidance recommendations. Fresh air recirculation and ventilation are properly maintained and monitored.

Cleaning and disinfection protocol

Regular practices of cleaning and disinfecting have been implemented, including a schedule for routine cleaning and disinfecting of occupied spaces, including but not limited to: classrooms, gyms, cafeteria, common areas, work surfaces, equipment, tools and machinery, vehicles, meeting rooms, and drop-off and pick-up locations. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting is being conducted of high-touch areas.

Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfecting supplies have been purchased and are available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets and manufacturer specifications, and are being used with required personal protective equipment for the product.

All students and staff are encouraged to continuously wash their hands throughout the day (between every activity, at every transition, before after mealtimes, after bathroom use, before and after outside, etc.

Communication

Rock Ridge Public Schools will maintain the covid-19 updates on our website (www.rrps.org) as a portal for information with links to data and health and safety guidelines.

Any changes to the Rock Ridge Public School COVID-19 Operational Plan will be directly communicated to parents via email.

