

Health & Safety Plan 2021 Reopening Schools Protocol

Updated July 31, 2021 with ESSER guidelines

OVERVIEW:

Per an order from the Virginia Public Health Commissioner, each private school and public school division must develop a plan for implementing COVID-19 mitigation strategies before reopening in accordance with the Virginia guidance for schools under the Virginia Return to School plans with ESSER guidelines. Plans must be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

Please note that this plan is focused on the health and safety of students and staff and to limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission as the reopening of schools begins for Fall 2021. It is not focused on academic programs, teaching and learning, and student-support models. This information can be found in the Rockbridge County Public Schools' (RCPS) updated August 2021 Return to School plans. The information provided here is based on the best information we have at this time and is not exhaustive. These guidelines were created in accordance with guidance from the VDOE, Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under ESSER guidelines. These guidelines may be revisited as more public health data become known and/or the Governor's guidance changes.

Referencing the *Virginia Phase III Guidance for Schools*, as well as VDH and *CDC Guidance*, schools must prepare COVID-19 mitigation plans for reopening schools for Fall 2021 as outlined in the ESSER guidelines for the VDOE. It is likely that outbreaks of COVID-19 will continue. Therefore, the plans outlined in this section should consider various contingencies for continuing operations in the event of an outbreak. Schools must report cases and outbreaks to their local health department. In addition, schools will consult with their local health department regarding management of outbreaks, dismissals, or similar decisions such as shutdown of school activities. The VDH contact is Dr. Laura Kornegay, Director of Central Shenandoah Health Department (540-463-3185).

OUTLINE OF PLAN:

- I. [School Procedures for Students / Staff / Parents-Visitors](#)
- II. [School Cleaning Protocols](#)
- III. [School Nurse Clinic: Wellness Visits Protocols](#)
- IV. [School Nurse Clinic: Sick Visits Protocols](#)
- V. [After-School Activities: Sports / Extracurricular Events](#)
- VI. [Resources/Web Links](#)
- VII. [Appendix](#)

I. School Procedures for Students/Staff/Parents-Visitors:

**** All individuals not fully vaccinated are required to wear cloth face coverings while in school buildings.**

A. Arrival to School

All schools will adhere to CDC recommended guidelines for social distancing, face coverings, hand washing, cleaning/disinfection, classroom and transportation usage. All students and staff will adhere to the RCPS Cloth Face Covering Policy.

Students and staff members will conduct daily health self screenings before arriving at school. If the student or staff member is febrile (fever of 100.4 degrees or higher), they should stay home and contact the school about their health issue.

Transportation Protocols:

- **Bus Stop:** Students will practice social distancing at the bus stop area and refrain from gatherings in groups or horseplay. Students will wear face coverings when social distancing of a minimum of 3 feet or to the greatest extent possible within the bus stop area.
- **Bus Loading:** Students will follow the school bus driver's directions for loading the school bus. Students will load from the back to the front of the bus. Students will remain seated until arrival at school. All students and drivers will wear facing coverings while riding the school bus.
- **Bus Unloading:** Students will follow the school bus driver's directions for unloading the school bus upon arrival to school. Students will continue to wear face coverings when unloading and entering the school building.

Car Drop-Off Protocols:

- Parents/Guardians will remain in the car during car drop-off procedures. If a parent or guardian needs to meet with a school administrator or a member of the school staff, please make an appointment ahead of time.
- Students will practice social distancing in the car drop-off area.
- Students who are not fully vaccinated will wear face coverings once they exit the car and remain on while in the school building.

B. Student / Staff Health Screenings

- Screening, monitoring, and testing are essential components of limiting the spread of COVID-19 or any other illness. Daily health screenings by students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms will be assessed at home each school day (Appendix VII, p. 12) during Virginia's protocols and temperature screenings completed upon arrival to school/work.
- Health screenings by students, staff, parents, or visitors will be conducted to measure temperatures and/or symptoms (Appendix VII, p. 12) before arriving at school. If a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher is registered during the screening, the student or staff member should remain at home. Parents will be contacted to pick up their student if the student becomes ill at school and the student will remain in the isolation room until the parent arrives. Students will be required to be fever free without the assistance of a fever-reducing medication for 24 hours (1 day) before returning to school.

C. Navigation Through the School Buildings

- Hallways: Students will travel on the right side of the hallway to the greatest extent possible. Students should go directly to their classroom/destination and not stand or mingle in the hallways to the greatest extent possible. Students who are not fully vaccinated will wear a face covering during transitions.
- Lockers: Students may utilize lockers while practicing social distancing measures to the greatest extent possible. Some schools may not use lockers.
- Bathrooms: Social distancing will be required when entering and using the restroom facilities at each school. Students must practice social distancing of 3 feet to the greatest extent possible within the area while in the bathroom.
- Classrooms: Students who are not fully vaccinated will be required to wear a face covering in the classroom until directed by the classroom teacher to take a mask break. Desks and/or tables will be placed at appropriate social distancing measures of 3 feet to the greatest extent possible within the area.
- Cafeteria: Students will practice social distancing of 3 feet to the greatest extent possible within the area while in the cafeteria. Students will follow hallway procedures to arrive and depart from the cafeteria.
- Water Fountains: Water fountain spouts will be closed, however, water bottle filling stations will be available. Water bottles brought from home are highly recommended for classroom/ school usage.
- Stairs /Elevator: When using stairs, students and staff will stay to the right side of the steps going up and down. Elevator usage is for medical needs.

D. School Dismissal

Transportation Protocols:

- **Bus Loading:** Students will follow the school bus driver's directions for loading the school bus. Students will remain seated until arrival at the bus stop. All students and drivers will wear facing coverings while riding the school bus.
- **Bus Unloading:** Students will follow the school bus driver's directions for unloading the school bus.

Car Pick-Up:

- Parents/Guardians will remain in the car during car pick-up procedures. If a parent or guardian needs to meet with a school administrator or a member of the school staff, please make an appointment ahead of time.
- Students will practice social distancing in the car pick-up area.
- Students who have not been fully vaccinated will wear face coverings until instructed by a member of the school staff to approach their car and be seated in the car.

II. School Cleaning Protocols

The School Division has established procedures for frequently cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of buildings, especially bathrooms and frequently touched surfaces. Staff will use cleaning products from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of approved products that are effective against COVID-19.

Examples of frequently touched surfaces and objects that will need routine disinfection following school reopening are:

- tables
- doorknobs
- light switches
- countertops
- handles
- desks
- phones
- keyboards
- toilets
- faucets and sinks
- touch screens
- bathrooms
- cafeteria tables
- school buses

In addition, our school system will provide supplies necessary to adhere to recommended infection prevention and control practices. This includes providing hygiene supplies in each school building and classroom. Specifically for classrooms, there will be alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol) in every classroom. Sinks will be well-stocked with soap and paper towels for handwashing. Garbage cans will be placed in each classroom just inside the door for students and staff members to easily discard items. In addition, tissues will be available in all classrooms for students and staff use.

If a staff member or student becomes ill for any reason during the school day (COVID or non-COVID), the area will be cleaned and disinfected accordingly. Also, all areas used by the ill staff member or student will be cleaned and disinfected. These areas include classrooms, share areas, common areas, etc.

III. School Nurse Clinic: Wellness Visit Protocols

Minor first aid situations should be handled by the classroom teacher whenever possible to prevent office congregation and possible exposure to illness. The goal is to keep healthy students out of the clinic where they could potentially be exposed to illness. Schools will provide for classroom teachers the following items to assist with health situations:

- first-aid supplies to support students with minor toothaches/loss of tooth, small paper cuts, bug bites from the playground area, minor headache/stomach ache, and minor bumps and bruises;

- instructions for students to provide self-care under the direction of a staff member to maintain social distancing and avoid skin-to-skin contact;
- guidance on when to send students to the nurse's clinic or keep in the classroom that include procedures for how to contact the nurse if needed; and
- protocols for the nursing staff to administer student medications, identify symptoms of COVID19, assist with severe bleeding or nosebleeds, and support in situations where students or staff members are having difficulty breathing, vision loss/impairment, seizures, rashes, vomiting/diarrhea, concussions/fainting/head injury, and any specialized physical health-care procedures such as diabetic care, tube feedings, etc.

IV. School Nurse Clinic: Sick Visit Protocols

If it is determined that students need additional medical assistance beyond basic first aid, the school nurse will be dispatched to the classroom. The school nurse will assess the student and determine next steps.

In general, the school clinic will need to establish the following three areas:

General Waiting, Wellness Student, and Isolation for students presenting symptoms of COVID-19.

A. General Waiting Area:

- Students with non-COVID-19
- Physical Symptoms (e.g., injury, assessments)
- Physical distancing marked off
- Students sanitize/wash hands
- Clean area after students leave

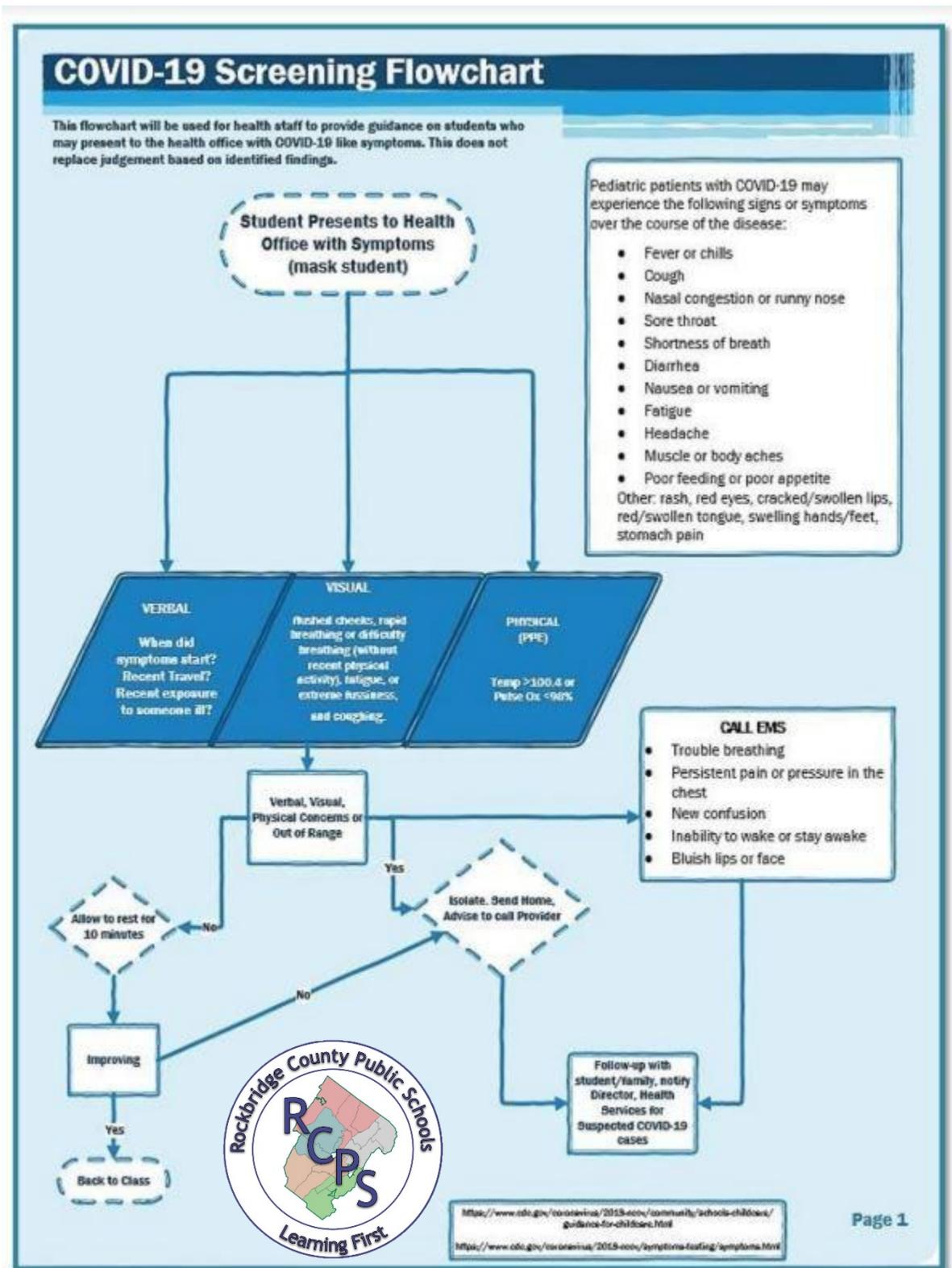
B. Wellness Student Area:

- Students with nonCOVID-19
- Students with health care needs that cannot be addressed in the classroom (e.g. diabetic and other noncontagious health care needs).
- Physical distancing marked off
- Students sanitize/wash hands
- Clean area after students leave

C. Isolation Room:

- Students demonstrating symptoms of COVID19
- Ask if they have been around someone with COVID-19 or have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If yes, call parent/send home.
- Physical distancing marked off or in separate rooms
- Students sanitize/wash hands
- Students put on face coverings
- Non-contact thermometer used to monitor symptoms
- Isolate student from others

- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick home or to a healthcare facility
- Notify school principal, will contact Virginia Department of Health
- Thoroughly sanitize area after use



COVID-19 Screening Questions

Students and staff should assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 before reporting to school /work using the self-assessment checklist (Appendix VII, p.12). If a student or staff member becomes ill at school, the following screening questions will be asked:

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

- A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- New shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- New chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- New muscle aches (myalgia) that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise)?

COVID-19 Situations:

If a student presents symptoms:

The student would be kept in the Isolation Room until parents pick up. The student would stay home until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. If symptoms increase, stay home for 10 days and have been fever free for 24 hours without any fever-reducing medications.

If a student tests positive:

The individual student would need to stay home for 10 days and in order to return to school, must have been fever free for 24 hours without any fever-reducing medications. This will allow for proper collaboration with the VDH, contact tracing and sanitizing of the school building areas. Any positive COVID test will be immediately reported to the Virginia Department of Health as well as to families as we collaborate with VDH to ensure proper protocols are followed.

If a staff member presents symptoms:

The staff member will go home and stay home until fever free for 24 hours without any fever-reducing medications. If symptoms increase, a staff member will stay home for 10 days and return only when fever free for 24 hours without any fever-reducing medications.

If a staff member tests positive:

The staff member will stay home for 10 days and will not return until fever free for 24 hours without any fever reducing medications. This will allow for proper collaboration with the VDH, contact tracing and sanitizing of the school building areas. Any positive COVID test will be immediately reported to the Virginia Department of Health as well as to families as we collaborate with VDH to ensure proper protocols are followed.

If a family member of student or staff member tests positive:

If a student or staff member has a family member in the same household that tests positive, they are considered close contacts, and will need to stay home and quarantine for 14 days. If no symptoms occur, the student or staff member may return to school/work. If symptoms occur in another family member in the same household, then quarantine for 14 days would begin when that family member becomes symptomatic.

A shutdown of classroom, school, school division:

Shutdown would depend on several factors including community prevalence of the disease, number of student's symptomatic, number of staff members symptomatic, and other areas of school operations.

Quarantine vs. Isolation

Quarantine:

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person with COVID-19. Watch for fever and other symptoms of COVID-19.

Isolation:

Isolation is used to keep someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 separated from others, even in their own home. Isolation helps prevent the spread of the disease. People in isolation should stay home for 10 days and be fever free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours. Stay in a specific sick room, or area away from other people. Use a separate bedroom/bathroom if available.

V: After School Activities: Sports / Extracurricular

Rockbridge County High School's Athletic Department works closely with the Virginia High School League (VHSL) to determine the action plan for all sports and will follow the VHSL guidelines. The VHSL continues to monitor COVID-19 and is in regular communication with the RCHS Athletic Department, as well as, public health officials to provide a healthy and safe environment for those participating in athletics.

VI: Resources / Web Links

[VDOE Recovery, Redesign, Restart](#)

[CDC Guidelines](#)

Rockbridge County Public Schools COVID-19 Team:

Dr. Phillip Thompson, Superintendent 540-463-7386
Mr. Tim Martino, Assistant Superintendent 540-463-7386
Dr. Matt Crossman, Director of School Services 540-463-7386
Mr. Randy Walters, Chief Operations Officer 540-463-7386
Ms. Christine Wood, Director of Special Education 540-463-7386
Mr. Jason Kirby, Chief Business Officer 540-463-7386
Mr. David Daniels, Director of Finance 540-463-7386
Mr. Paige Owens, Director of Technology 540-463-5555
Mrs. Penni Allen RN, Coordinator of School Nurses 540-463-3129

Rockbridge County Public Schools School Principals:

Dr. Mike Craft, Rockbridge County High School 540-463-5555
Mr. Billy Thomas, Maury River Middle School 540-463-3129
Mrs. Robin Parker, Central Elementary 540-463-4500
Mrs. Laura Fauber, Fairfield Elementary 540-348-5202
Mrs. Melanie Camden, Mountain View Elementary 540-261-2418
Mr. Ricky Bain, Natural Bridge Elementary 540-291-2292

VII: Appendix

RCPS COVID-19 Self-Check Screening Questions for Student/Staff Members

Rockbridge County Public Schools

COVID-19 Self-Check Screening Questions for Students/Staff Members

Students/Employees should screen themselves daily BEFORE reporting to school/work:

1. Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - A fever of 100.4° F or higher
 - A new cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Chills
 - A new sore throat
 - A change in senses of smell and/or taste
 - A headache
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

2. Have you taken medication to lower your temperature in the last 72 hours?

3. Have you been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days? Close contact includes:
 - Living in the same household as a person sick with COVID-19.
 - Caring for a sick person with COVID-19.
 - Being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 15 minutes; or
 - Being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils, etc.).

If you answer YES to any of the above questions, DO NOT REPORT TO SCHOOL/WORK. STAY HOME and call your school to let them know.