



RPS SCHOOLS: Guidelines for operating schools during COVID-19



Students, families, and staff can consult these guidelines for information about how public health data impacts school operations. RPS continues to manage each individual situation in cooperation with the Olmsted County Public Health (OCPH) & Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Stage 1: PREVENTION

- No current positive cases of COVID-19 among staff or students.
- Health and safety measures are in place.
- Enhanced disinfection of high-touch areas and frequent facility cleaning.
- At home screening for anyone entering the building.
- Restricting visitor access.
- Monitoring trends in the community in cooperation with OCPH & MDH.
- RPS COVID-19 team continues education and communication prevention tactics to families, students, staff.

Stage 2: MITIGATION

- One or more confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 at one facility. A facility remains in mitigation until that facility has been through two incubation cycles (28+days) without any additional COVID-19 cases.
- Building COVID-19 Coordinators evaluate symptomatic individuals with MDH Decision Tree and determine if person is well enough to remain in school or program.
- RPS COVID-19 Coordinators will complete contact tracing and investigation for each case.
- Individuals who are deemed close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case will be contacted and advised to quarantine and follow OCPH and MDH guidelines.
- Continued health and safety measures, enhanced disinfection and cleaning, and restricted visitor access.
- Continued at home screening and communication to stay home when sick.

Stage 3: MODIFIED OPERATIONS

- Operations will be reviewed once the impact of confirmed COVID-19 cases in one specific area such as a classroom or grade-level, cause a disruption in instruction.
- Students and staff in hybrid or in-person model may move to distance learning model.
- A short-term closure of facility, area of school, or grade level may be necessary.
- Individuals in the impacted areas will be advised according to District standards and MDH guidelines.
- General communication to the facility staff and/or students and family will follow.

Stage 4: FACILITY CLOSURE

- Operations will be reviewed when the impact of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceed 5% of facility enrollment. If staff absent due to quarantine reaches 10% or more in one building, closure will be reviewed. Considerations are accounted for regarding operational staff: maintenance, SNS, transportation, and so on.
- Entire facility and activities will be closed for a minimum of 10 days.
- Students in hybrid or in-person model move to distance learning model.
- Individuals who are deemed close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case will be contacted and advised to quarantine and follow OCPH and MDH guidelines.
- Continued communication and education regarding next steps, mitigation, and prevention continue.

Stage 5: DISTRICT CLOSURE

- Operations will be reviewed if the impact of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceed 5% of enrollment in facilities. If staff absent due to quarantine reaches 15% or more in one building, closure will be reviewed.
- All facilities will be closed for a minimum of 10 days.
- Students in hybrid or in-person model move to distance learning model.
- All auxiliary areas such as playgrounds and athletic fields are closed.
- Activities will follow the MDE parameters.
- Activities follow MSHSL guidelines