

Rogersville City School

Opening Plan Protocols

School Year 2021-2022

1. **RCS will not be issuing a mask mandate for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year at this time. However, masks are strongly advised.** According to CDC guidelines, students in which the positive case and students who are 6 feet in distance from the case and are wearing a well-fitted mask will not be required to quarantine. Only the student who is positive for COVID will be sent home according to quarantine guidelines. We will continue to monitor health conditions and may need to modify current plans throughout the school year. We will keep parents, staff and students informed if or when there are any changes.
2. Students will not be required to wear a mask during outside play at this time.
3. We will not require temperature checks for students or staff before school. However, we ask parents to closely monitor the health conditions of their children. Please do not send children to school if they have a fever or are sick.
4. We will not have restrictions on the number of spectators at athletic events this year. Spectators will not be required to wear a mask to athletic events at this time, however masks are strongly encouraged. We know some parents/community members may be at a higher risk for illness. We will allow all athletic events, scrimmages, pep-rallies, and practices to continue as we have done in the past prior to COVID restrictions.
5. We will use a balanced approach to quarantining students and staff. We will be utilizing the TN Dept. of Health School Algorithm, CDC Guidelines, clinic staff, and teacher input to determine the level of possible exposure before sending a student home. We will be open and transparent about the status of COVID exposure in our school. Parents/Guardians will be notified as needed in the event of COVID exposure.
6. We will return back to eating lunch in the cafeteria as we have done in the past. Masks will not be required in the cafeteria. We will restrict some of the self-serve options we have had in the past to prevent the spread of disease and viruses. Our food service staff will be serving items on the line instead of allowing students to reach in and take items from the lunch line.
7. All students will be eligible for free lunch this school year. All parents will need to complete a free/reduced lunch application to be eligible for other state benefits. However, this paperwork is not necessary for the school district's breakfast and lunch program. All students will automatically receive a free breakfast and lunch this school year.

8. At this time, we will not have field trips. However, after Fall Break this will be re-assessed.
9. We will closely monitor athletic teams in an effort to quickly isolate positive COVID cases. We will ask student athletes to closely monitor their own health conditions and discuss any COVID related symptoms with their coach immediately to prevent spread of illness.
10. We encourage staff and students of age to be vaccinated, but vaccinations are not required. Research indicates that vaccinations may not only help to keep us from getting the virus, but it may also decrease COVID symptoms if the virus is contracted. The COVID vaccine will not be required at this time for student enrollment or staff employment.
11. Mask will not be required by the public outside or when entering the building, however, for school safety, we ask them to be worn if at all possible.
12. We will slowly begin to open the school to visitors this year. We fully understand that many parents/grandparents/guardians want to visit children during school. We want our parents and community members to feel welcome in school, but we also want to keep everyone safe. Please be patient as we navigate through the school year. We will limit visitors at the beginning of the school year. As the year progresses, we will lift some of these restrictions assuming no major COVID outbreaks. We will still ask parents to only send pre-packaged items for classroom snacks in lieu of homemade items for student safety.
13. We will continue our efforts to sanitize the classrooms to improve student wellness and safety. We will also continue our efforts to have students maintain safe/healthy hygiene habits such as washing hands, coughing into elbows, and not sharing personal items.
14. Students may bring their own water bottles to school. The water bottle filling stations will be open throughout the building for student and staff use. Regular water fountains will not be in use. Students should have only water in their school water bottles.
15. It is important to note that community/school health conditions can change quickly and require the school to make a variety of modification to these guidelines. We fully understand that changes within the school system can have a significant impact on our families and community. RCS will strive during the 2021-2022 school year to provide the safest and healthiest learning environment possible.