



August 11, 2021

Dear RCS Families,

Our teams are excited to welcome students back to the school buildings and the virtual campus on Aug. 30, 2021.

As we approach the 2021-22 school year, we realize that parents may have questions about processes related to the current pandemic. Rochester Community Schools remains committed to following the guidance of our local, state, and federal health experts for the safety and well-being of our students, staff, families, and community.

Last week, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released a document entitled, [Recommendations for Safer School Operations during COVID-19](#), that includes prevention strategies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Based on this guidance, Rochester Community Schools will support the following recommendations and requirements.

Vaccinations	COVID-19 vaccinations are <i>recommended</i> for eligible students and staff. The Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) offers all vaccines needed for students. Please reference the attached flyer for more information. Appointments are available at OakGov.com/Health .
Mask use	Universal mask use is <i>recommended</i> indoors, regardless of vaccination status. The CDC <i>requires</i> masks on public transportation, including school buses, regardless of vaccination status.
Physical distancing	Physical distancing is <i>recommended</i> indoors when possible, regardless of vaccination status.
Screen testing	Screen testing is <i>recommended</i> to identify infected people. Appointments are available at OakGov.com/Health .
Contact tracing and quarantine	RCS expects contact tracing to be conducted by the OCHD. We anticipate receiving guidance from the OCHD in the upcoming weeks regarding quarantining and will continue to keep our families updated as information becomes available.
Stay home when sick	Students and staff are encouraged to stay home when sick and get tested for COVID-19 if symptoms are present. Student absences are reported according to attendance policies.
Hand washing	Frequent and proper hand-washing techniques are encouraged throughout the day.
Weekly reporting	At this time, the MDHHS <i>requires</i> school districts to continue to report school-associated cases of COVID-19 within 24 hours after being notified by the local health department. For RCS, this information is provided by the OCHD and is located on our website .
Cleaning and disinfecting	RCS continues to support healthy learning environments by thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing buildings following CDC recommendations.
Ventilation	Weather-permitting, building doors and windows may be open when appropriate. Air-balance contractors continue to inspect and balance air flow for our building HVAC systems. Filters are inspected and changed on a regular basis to maximize ventilation and reduce the concentration of airborne contaminants.

In-person learning	RCS plans to return to familiar school routines and environments with limited restrictions. This includes a full, five-day schedule with in-person instruction; use of lockers; food service; and participation in field trips and other school activities.
RCS Virtual Campus	The RCS Virtual Campus, created and staffed by RCS educators, remains a full-time online option for all families.

We continue to reinforce that at no time will students or staff be discriminated against for their vaccination or mask-wearing preferences. RCS abides by a respect code that ensures all members of our community will be safe, valued, and respected. It is also important to note that mitigation strategies may change when additional guidance is provided by local, state, and federal health experts and/or when transmission rates appear to be higher.

At Rochester Community Schools, our passion is our profession, and we remain committed to providing the love and care that is the foundation for all learning. We are confident that parents and guardians will continue to partner with us to make the best decisions to keep our children and school community safe.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to use the Talk to RCS feature on our website at www.rochester.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Robert Shaner
Superintendent