



Return Plan Fall 2021 • August 19, 2021

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Detailed information about specific principles and policies for Fall 2021.



RCDS READY

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Health and Well-Being Practices

- Face masks will be worn indoors by students and RCDS employees. Fabric or medical masks are acceptable. Face shields, gaiters, and bandana-type face coverings are not permitted.
- All RCDS students and employees will be temperature screened by a touchless scanner prior to entering the building each day.
- All classroom entrances will be equipped with alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will be built into daily routines.
- RCDS Maintenance Staff will continue the cleaning of frequently used surfaces and the use of additional cleaning equipment, including electrostatic sprayers, UV-A technology and approved chemicals recommended by the CDC. Enhanced cleaning and ventilation includes the upgraded HVAC equipment and UV and ionization technology installed last year.
- Three-foot physical distancing will be encouraged in all areas of the School at all times.

Academics

The outstanding and robust academic experience to which RCDS students and parents are accustomed remains intact.

Our plan will remain flexible to allow in-person instruction to shift to virtual learning in the event that a student (or group of students) must quarantine or tests positive for COVID-19.

Campus Life

- Family-style dining will return at limited capacity; at least one grade per division will eat in the Dining Room every day. Other students will be provided a bag lunch each day to eat outside or in classrooms. We look forward to returning to our customary lunch as soon as we can.
- Field trips will return. Our tentative plan is to have the 8th grade overnight trip in October.
- Back to School Night and student-led conferences will return in person, with a few adjustments.
- A regular athletics season will proceed. Students will compete interscholastically, and teams will practice together every day.
- Visitors will be admitted on campus and in school buildings by appointment. Visitors will be asked to fill out a health questionnaire upon arrival and will be required to wear face masks. We respectfully ask that visitors attempt to limit their time in the building.
- Students will return to using lockers and cubbies.
- Our school store, Gator Alley, will reopen.

Community Commitment

The Four Pillars make RCDS a truly great N-8 community for our families. As we did last year, we need to join one another during this time and ask all of our families to read, sign, and return to school the "Gator Pledge" acknowledging their commitment to uphold our community standards.

[You can download your copy of the "Gator Pledge" here.](#)



RCDS Ready: COVID-19 Guidelines for:

- COVID-19 Symptoms While in School
- Having a Positive COVID-19 Test
- Quarantining due to Exposure to a Positive Case of COVID-19
- Returning to School Following a Positive COVID-19 Test
- Quarantining for Fully Vaccinated Individuals
- School Closure and COVID-19
- Travel and COVID-19

Guidelines for COVID-19 Symptoms While in School:

The symptoms for COVID-19 are the following:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ✓ Fever 99.4 or above | ✓ Nasal congestion | ✓ Muscle pain |
| ✓ Chills | ✓ Sore throat | ✓ New loss of taste or smell |
| ✓ Coughing | ✓ Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea | ✓ Headache |
| ✓ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | ✓ Fatigue | |

Any students or RCDS employee who develop COVID-19 symptoms while in school will be evaluated by the school nurse, isolated in the nurse's office and sent home.

If anyone develops **at least two** of the following symptoms while in school, they will be sent home: **fever (99.4 or above), chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose.**

If anyone develops **at least one** of the following symptoms they will be sent home: **cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.**

If the individual continues with symptoms after being sent home and is tested for COVID-19, they must remain at home until the test results are reported. If the test results are positive, the individual must stay home and self isolate for 10 days after symptoms first appeared, and be symptom free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medications prior to returning to school.

RCDS READY

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Guidelines for a Student or RCDS Employee with a Positive COVID-19 Test

If a student or RCDS employee tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms, they will need to self-isolate (stay in your home and away from others) for:

- 10 days after symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

NOTE:

Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation

If a student or RCDS employee tests positive for COVID-19 and has no symptoms, they will still need to self isolate for 10 days after receiving the positive test result.

When notified of a positive COVID-19 test result, the school nurse will begin the contact tracing process for RCDS and contact the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission to report the individual(s) with the positive COVID-19 case, as well as any close contacts found through contact tracing.

The following information will be asked of the positive COVID-19 case and it's close contacts:

- Close contact information for the person(s) who tested positive for COVID-19, such as name, address and phone number, parents name (if applicable) and any family members living in the household.
- The date the COVID-19 positive person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 and was last in the building.
- Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations.

Guidelines for Quarantining due to exposure to a positive case of COVID-19

If a student, or RCDS employee finds they have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, there are two options for quarantining:

- **No Test Option:** Stay home for 10 days. If you stay symptom free for 10 days, quarantine ends. Monitor symptoms, wear a mask, and social distance through day 14.
- **Test Option:** Stay home for 7 days. Get tested on day 5, 6, or 7. Stay home while awaiting results. If the test is negative and you remain symptom free, quarantine ends and that individual may return to school on day 8. Monitor symptoms, wear a mask, and social distance through day 14.

"Close contact" is defined by the CDC as someone who was less than 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period starting from 2 days before symptom onset (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.



Guidelines For Returning to School Following a Positive COVID-19 Test

A student, or RCDS employee may discontinue isolation and return to school if the following guidelines have been met:

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms.
- Improvement in symptoms.
- Individuals should be fever free for at least 24 hrs without the use of fever-reducing medications.

NOTE:

A negative COVID-19 test is not necessary to return to school.

Guidelines For Quarantining For Fully Vaccinated Individuals

Fully vaccinated individuals:

- Do not need to quarantine after having close contact with someone with COVID-19, as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Do not need to quarantine or get tested before/after domestic travel unless otherwise required by their destination.

If you are fully vaccinated and have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You can still remain in school, and should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. In the event you test positive, you should isolate for 10 days.

Guidelines for School Closure

School Closure is a decision that will be made by RCDS administration, in consultation with our local public health department. While it is not possible to account for every scenario that schools may encounter over the course of the school year, the following scenarios may help inform the decision for when schools should temporarily close.

- One confirmed case in school – school remains open, students and staff in close contact with positive case quarantine from school for 10 days, unless they are fully vaccinated.
- Two or more cases within 14 days but are linked to a clear alternative exposure that is unrelated to the school setting and unlikely to be a source of exposure for the larger community (same household, exposed at the same event outside of school) – school remains open, students and staff in close contact with positive cases quarantine for 10 days.
- Two or more cases that are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms, are not linked to exposures outside the school setting, and a clear connection between cases cannot be easily identified, but in school transmission is suspected. Recommendations for whether the entire school or individual classrooms should transition to remote learning will be based on discussions with the local board of health and administration.
- A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred and is impacting multiple staff, students and families – consider closing school for 14 days based on investigation from the local health department.

Guidelines for Travel

As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect.

Currently, the CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated. For more information, refer to the CDC's guidance for travel [here](#).