



2021-22 COVID Protocols



ROBBINSDALE
Area Schools



2021-2022 COVID Protocols

Updated August 17, 2021

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic requires multiple layers of prevention strategies in order to reduce the spread of COVID in our schools and community. Robbinsdale Area Schools follows recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as the basis for their COVID protocols. In addition, community transmission and COVID vaccination rates are carefully monitored each week to determine the need for changes to this guidance. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this guidance will change from time to time to reflect updated information.

Vaccines

Robbinsdale Area Schools, in alignment with the MDH and CDC, strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccination for teachers, staff, families, and eligible students. Families can find information about how to access free vaccinations by visiting the state's [vaccine connector website](#). The district plans to hold school-based vaccine clinics at a later time.

Face Coverings

Beginning Aug. 23, face coverings will be required for everyone over the age of two years old, including students, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings must be worn while on school buses, and while indoors at all schools and district facilities, where a physical distance of six feet cannot be maintained between persons. **Face coverings are not required when outdoors.**

In addition, face coverings may be temporarily removed during activities such as eating, drinking, swimming, playing an instrument, or exercising. The COVID-19 [Face Coverings Administrative Procedure 808](#) provides more information on the face coverings requirement.

Physical Distancing

Schools will implement physical distancing whenever feasible. Per MDH, children should not be excluded from in-person learning or care in order to maintain physical distancing.

COVID Symptom Screening & Testing

Prior to coming to school each day, individuals should perform a [COVID symptom screening](#). People with symptoms of COVID-19 should call the COVID-19 Hotline or complete the [electronic reporting form](#) for further guidance.

Robbinsdale Area Schools encourages students, staff, and visitors to complete regular COVID testing in order to help identify and isolate cases. Additional information regarding testing through school is



forthcoming once guidance is available from MDH. Individuals can find a testing location by going to the [MDH website: COVID-19 Testing](#).

Staying Home When Sick

People who have COVID symptoms must stay home or will be sent home immediately. Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should separate from others and get tested immediately, whether they are vaccinated or not.

COVID-19 symptoms fall into two groups:

- More common symptoms are one or more of these: fever of 100.4 degrees fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; and new loss of taste or smell.
- Less common symptoms are two or more of these: sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; and new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

For people with one “more common”, at least two “less common”, or any symptom during days 8-14 of a shortened quarantine, they can return with one of the following:

1. A negative COVID-19 test result; or
2. Alternative diagnosis from an evaluation from a doctor/health care provider; or
3. Stay at home away from others (isolation), including those who live in the house if possible, for at least 10 days starting from the time their symptoms started and until their symptoms have improved and they have no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications if the person does not get an evaluation from a doctor or another health care provider or get a COVID-19 test.

Siblings and all others who are not fully vaccinated or have not had lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days, and who live with them should stay home and away from all activities for at least 14 days (quarantine). Day one of quarantine starts the day after their last day of contact (Day 0) with the person who has COVID-19 symptoms.

Positive Cases

Students or visitors who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home (in isolation) and complete the [electronic reporting form](#) or call the COVID Hotline for further guidance. Staff members should call their immediate supervisor. Positive individuals should stay home until all three of these things are true:

- They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better; and
- It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive: and,
- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.

All positive cases will be reported to the MDH.

If a person tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms, they should stay at home and away from

Believe. Belong. Become.



others who live in the house (isolation) for at least 10 days from the time the symptoms started and until symptoms have improved and they have had no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. If they have no symptoms but test positive, they should stay home for 10 days counting from the day they were tested.

Siblings and all others who are not fully vaccinated or have not had lab confirmed COVID-19 within last 90 days, and who live with them should stay home and stay away from all activities during the quarantine period, which starts with the day they last had contact with the person who has COVID-19 symptoms.

Household Close Contacts & Quarantines

If a person is a close contact of a household member who tests positive for COVID-19, the person should stay home from ALL ACTIVITIES for up to 14 days (quarantine). Day one of quarantine starts the day after their last day of contact (Day 0) with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- Children and staff who are fully vaccinated may not need to quarantine and should follow guidance on About COVID-19 Vaccine: For fully vaccinated people (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/basics.html#recs)
- Children and staff who have had lab-confirmed COVID-19 may not need to quarantine and should follow Close Contacts and Tracing: COVID-19. (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/close.html#not)

School Close Contacts

Per the Minnesota Departments of Education (MDE) and Health (MDH), full classroom quarantines will no longer be necessary when face-coverings have been consistently used. As a result, RAS will no longer be requiring quarantines for students and staff for exposure related to a school close contact when masks have been consistently used and contact tracing will not be conducted.

COVID Notification

Schools will notify all families and staff if the daily absence rate of COVID-like illness (including influenza) and/or lab confirmed, positive COVID cases exceeds 5 percent or three or more students in an elementary or center-based special education classroom. This has been the infectious diseases practice and requirement prior to the COVID-19 pandemic from Hennepin County. In addition, positive cases and the number of individuals in quarantine or isolation due to symptoms will continue to be reported weekly on the district’s COVID data dashboard.

General Health & Safety Practices

Cleaning and disinfecting will be performed to reduce the potential of the virus on surfaces. Ventilation systems have been optimized for disinfection and filtration. Schools will provide hand hygiene and mask wearing education to students and staff. Routines for hand hygiene will be built into the school schedule to reduce the spread of infectious illnesses, including COVID-19.



Activities & Community Education Guidance

RAS activities and community education programs will follow the district's COVID protocols. [Recommendations from the Minnesota State High School League](#) will be taken into consideration when planning sports protocols.

Special Student Populations

Qualified exemptions to universal face covering are available for students whose disability prevents them from wearing a face covering. See [Administrative Procedure 808](#) on the website under policies.