



Rankin County School District Smart Restart Plan Update

The Rankin County School District will begin the second semester of the school year with all students returning to traditional face-to-face learning with enhanced hygiene and disinfection protocols. (There will be no CHOICE virtual learning option).

RCSD will continue to monitor and adjust plans for the health and safety of our students and employees throughout the school year. We will consult the guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control, and will follow Governor Executive Orders as decisions are made.

Updated 3/11/22

HEALTH & SAFETY

MASKS

- Currently, there are no state mandates regarding the wearing of masks for Mississippi school districts. (The RCSD will notify parents/guardians if any mandates are issued by the Governor during the school year.)
- **Indoors** The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors in the K-12 school setting when not eating or drinking regardless of vaccination status. The RCSD highly recommends the wearing of well fitting masks but will allow the parents/guardians of students and employees to make the decision related to the wearing of masks.
- **Outdoors:** Per the guidance of MSDH, in general, people do not need to wear masks outdoors, but masks should be considered in crowded outdoor settings or during activities of close prolonged contact with other students/teachers.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Per guidance from the MSDH, schools should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classroom settings, combined with universal indoor mask wearing to reduce transmission risk.
- MSDH recommends at least 6 feet of physical distancing and universal indoor mask wearing in all other indoor circumstances, when feasible.
- This guidance is made with an understanding of the potential physical constraints and other barriers in classroom settings when providing in-person classes for all students.

OTHER IMPORTANT HEALTH / SAFETY REMINDERS

MONITORING SYMPTOMS

- Parents/guardians should perform a daily at-home screening assessment of their child(ren)’s health before leaving home including temperature checks. If they have a temperature of 100 degrees F (38 degrees C) or higher, they should stay at home. Students should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Employees should perform a daily at-home screening assessment also.
- If your child feels unwell, or has any of the following symptoms, please do not allow him or her to come to school and contact your healthcare provider:
 - » fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. (If he/she does not pass the daily at-home screening examination, he/she should stay at home.)
- Families should self-report symptoms of illnesses to their local school.

SCHOOL NURSE

- A nurse is assigned to every campus. See <https://www.rcsd.ms/departments/nurses> to contact your student’s nurse. School staff will assist in monitoring students for symptoms and will refer anyone with symptoms to the school nurse/school designee for evaluation.

ENHANCED HYGIENE

- Everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing often with soap and water for 20 seconds, use of hand sanitizer when applicable, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses, in hallways, classrooms, and at school entrances and exits. Hand soap and paper towels will be in bathrooms.
- Teachers will have cleaning supplies in their classrooms for the disinfection of high touch surfaces during the school day.

ISOLATION, CONTACT TRACING, & QUARANTINE

CONTACT TRACING

- Schools will continue to attempt to identify individuals who are in close contact to COVID-19 within the school setting or extracurricular activities.
- Isolation areas are set up in each school for students with symptoms until they can be picked up from school.

ISOLATING

Anyone that tests positive for COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status)

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded from the school setting and remain in isolation for a full 5 days from the onset of symptoms (or excluded for 5 days from the date of the test if asymptomatic).
- If the individual has no symptoms, or the symptoms are resolving, and he/she has been fever free for the last 24 hours (without fever reducing medication), THEN he/she may return to school on day 6 and wear a mask correctly for 5 additional days. (Exception: outdoor activities where the participants are 6 feet apart do not require a mask).

QUARANTINING

Who does NOT require quarantine after exposure:

- Those who are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines or have tested positive for Covid in the last 90 days.
 - » People who are 18 years or older and have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster doses if eligible.
 - » People 5-17 years who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
 - » People with confirmed COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days.

- Recommended actions for those exposed but do NOT require quarantine
 - » Wear a well-fitting mask around others in the school setting and in public for 10 days after last exposure.
 - » Unless they have previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, they should test on day 5.

Who should quarantine after exposure:

- Those who are NOT up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines
 - » Ages 18 years and older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine (Moderna /Pfizer) more than 5 months ago but have not received a recommended boost shot.
 - » Those who have received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot.
 - » Those who are not fully vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.
- Recommended actions for those exposed and require quarantine
 - » Stay home for 5 days
 - » May return to school after 5 days if asymptomatic and wear a mask for an additional 5 days.
 - » Testing is recommended on day 5.

- Quarantined students will complete assignments via Google Classroom/Canvas. There will be no virtual lessons during this time.

CLOSE CONTACT WITH A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

- The first day of quarantine begins with the last day of exposure to the COVID-19 positive person

CLASSROOM/GROUPS

- RCSD will continue to closely monitor cases in individual schools/classes/groups to provide for the utmost safety of all students and staff members involved.

COVID TESTING

TESTING AT SCHOOL

- RCSD nurses can provide COVID-19 testing to individuals who are close contacts and are ASYMPTOMATIC as supplies are available. Contact your local school nurse to set an appointment for free testing.
- NO testing will be performed without signed consent from a legal guardian.

HOME TESTS

- Individuals with a positive home-based test are considered COVID-19 infected and should follow isolation guidelines. Proof of the positive test should be provided.

ACTIVITIES

- School assemblies, field trips, athletics, and other activities will return to traditional school procedures while following the applicable protocols in this document.
- Schools will follow the RCSD health and safety guidelines and any extra precautions required at opponent facilities for athletics and field trip locations.

VISITORS

- All visitors should be symptom-free and follow all school guidelines concerning health and safety.
- Visitors to campus should go directly to the school office area.
- Visitors will have temperatures taken in the office.

TRANSPORTATION

- Effective Tuesday, March 1, 2022, RCSD will no longer require students or staff members to wear a mask while on buses based on the most recent CDC and Department of Transportation guidance.
- Hand sanitizer is provided for students and bus drivers.

CHILD NUTRITION

- All RCSD students will be eligible for free school meals (breakfast, where served, and lunch) under the USDA Seamless Summer Option school food program through the end of the 21-22 school year.
- WE ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO SUBMIT A SY21/22 FREE/REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION SO THAT THEIR STUDENTS MAY QUALIFY FOR OTHER BENEFITS OFFERED. PLEASE VISIT www.rcsd.ms TO FIND THE APPLICATION OR AT <https://zcu.io/1BTn>.
- Depending on limitations of spacing and/or scheduling, some school sites may eat in the cafeteria, classrooms, or other designated areas.

***Refer to the 2021-2022 Student Handbook for information on attendance, policies, etc.*

****The RCSD Smart Restart Plan will be updated periodically throughout the school year, as needed. Public comment will be taken into consideration. Public comments can be emailed to RCSD-Covid@rcsd.ms.*



Brandon	Rankin County School District
Florence	
McLaurin	
Northwest	
Pelahatchie	
Pisgah	
Puckett	
Richland	

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE