



Rankin County School District Smart Restart Plan Update

The Rankin County School District will begin the 2022-2023 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 Centers for Disease Control, and will follow state and/or federal Executive Orders as decisions are made.

Updated 8/17/22

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends Mississippi K-12 schools follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)" as the primary guideline for establishing processes to prevent COVID-19 transmission in the school setting, and to maintain safe in-person education.

VACCINATIONS

- Staying up to date on routine vaccinations is essential to prevent illness from many different infections.
- Individuals must have received ALL recommended vaccines and boosters to be considered "up-to-date."
- For those 5 years of age and older, a booster is recommended as long as the last vaccine received was not in the previous 5 months.
- Those 50 years and older or those with compromised immune systems should receive 2nd booster at least 4 months after receiving the 1st booster.

MASKS

- Currently, there are no state mandates regarding the wearing of masks for Mississippi school districts. The RCSD will notify parents/guardians if any state and/or federal mandates are issued during the school year.
- 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 in times of a high community Covid level. Community levels can be found on the [CDC website](#).

STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

- Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19, to other people.
- If your student is sick, keep them at home and contact the school for further information.
- 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.

OTHER IMPORTANT HEALTH / SAFETY REMINDERS

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.

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.

ACTIVITIES

- Schools will follow the RCSD health and safety guidelines and any extra precautions required at opponent facilities for athletics and field trip locations.

TRANSPORTATION

- Hand sanitizer and masks will be provided for students and bus drivers as needed.

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.

CHILD NUTRITION

- WE ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO SUBMIT A SY22/23 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>.

COVID TESTING

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.

ISOLATION, CONTACT TRACING, & QUARANTINE

ISOLATING

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

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home for at least 5 days.
- End isolation after 5 full days if the student is fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.
- It is recommended to wear a mask until day 10.

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.

***Refer to the 2022-2023 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.*