

2021-2022 Return to School Health Plan
Roanoke County Public Schools
Updated February 28, 2022

On February 25, 2022, the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced significant changes in its COVID-19 orders and mitigation strategies that affect K-12 schools. These changes include revised metrics and strategies that communities, school districts, and families.

The following changes align with the CDC revisions and will go into effect on Monday, February 28.

1. **Masks will be optional for students.** This is a change from the previous policy requiring masks while indoors, but allowing parents to opt-out their child from the requirement. The change to a “mask optional” approach means that students are welcome to continue wearing a mask if they choose to do so, but there will no longer be a school requirement beginning Monday and parents will no longer need to notify schools of their choice.
2. **Masks will also be optional on school buses.** This change aligns with the CDC announcement made late Friday removing school buses from its transportation mask order: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>
3. **Masks will also be optional for employees.** This change reflects (1) the CDC’s new metrics that changes the COVID category for Roanoke County from “high” to “medium”, and (2) actions taken by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry to eliminate their requirement in March. Employees who choose to wear masks are welcome to do so.

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation’s students by addressing students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. This plan describes how Roanoke County Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to Dr. Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration at (540) 536-3900 ext. 10121 or at rstegall@rcps.us.

Positive case information by school will be tracked on the division website at the following link: <https://www.rcps.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4470>. The dashboard will be updated within 24 hours of notification of a positive COVID-19 case. Parent and staff notification letters will not be sent for the 2021-2022 school year since the same information can be accessed on the division website.

The health and safety of all Roanoke County Public School children and staff is our priority. RCPS will continue to follow mandates from the public health experts at the Virginia Department of Health, recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, directives of the governor, and guidance from the Virginia Department of Education in our planning and decision-making.

COVID-19 Division Team

Dr. Ken Nicely, Superintendent
Dr. Jessica McClung, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, Point of Contact for the Division, rstegall@rcps.us or (540)562-3900 ext. 10121
Mrs. Stephanie Hogan, Executive Director of Elementary Instruction
Mr. Mike Riley, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Ms. Lori Wimbush, Director of Equity and Engagement
Mrs. Charlene Vail, Coordinator of School Health Services
Dr. Shawn Hughes, Director of School Counseling
Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Beth Harman, Director of Special Education
Mr. Chris Lowe, Director of Facilities and Operations
Mr. Chuck Lionberger, Director of Community Relations
Mrs. Susan Peterson, Director of Finance
Mr. Jason Suhr, Director of CTE
Mr. Jeff Terry, Director of Technology
Mr. Ben Williams, Director of Testing
Ms. Hope White, Alleghany Health District, Virginia Department of Health, Epidemiologist – (540) 283-5032

COVID-19 School Contact

Elementary

Back Creek – Sandi Boyd – sboyd@rcps.us
Bonsack – Laurie Dedor – ldedor@rcps.us
Burlington – Beverly Blake – bblake@rcps.us
Cave Spring – Karen Barr – kbarr@rcps.us , Helen Canterbury – interim nurse Jan. 3- March
Clearbrook – Brooke Carnevali – bcarnevali@rcps.us
Fort Lewis – Stephanie Valentine – svalentine@rcps.us
Glen Cove – Kelsey Roop – kroop@rcps.us
Glenvar – Charise Vilfrard – cvilfrard@rcps.us
Green Valley – Emily Pace – epace@rcps.us
Herman L. Horn – Judy Flinchum – jflinchum@rcps.us
Masons Cove – Gail Lee – glee@rcps.us
Mount Pleasant – Terri Booth – tbooth@rcps.us
Mountain View – Lauren Bullen – lbullen@rcps.us
Oak Grove – Emelie Moles – emoles@rcps.us
Penn Forest – Marci Podlecki – mpodlecki@rcps.us
W.E. Cundiff – Julia Webster – jwebster@rcps.us

Middle

Cave Spring Middle – Tracy Delaney – tdelaney@rcps.us
Glenvar Middle – Mary Jane Witter – mwitter@rcps.us
Hidden Valley Middle – Sara Cavicchio – scavicchio@rcps.us
Northside Middle – Mary Tershak – mtershak@rcps.us
William Byrd Middle – Molly Rhodes – mrhodes@rcps.us

High

Burton & A-STEP – Charlene Vail – cvail@rcps.us
Cave Spring High – Michelle Hunter – mhunter@rcps.us
Glenvar High – Mary Jane Witter – mwitter@rcps.us
Hidden Valley High – Rike Shores – ushores@rcps.us

Northside High – Christina Powell – cpowell@rcps.us
William Byrd High – Vickie Hawkins – vhawkins@rcps.us

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken the following steps detailed below to maintain health and safety during and following the return to full in-person instruction.

In addition, Roanoke County Public Schools has adopted policies listed below on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Coordination with state and local health officials
- **Optional masking**
- **Provide accommodations for distancing as needed**
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
- Contact tracing based on the latest guidance from VDH
- Diagnostic and screening testing
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Maintaining Health and Safety

Division Participation in Community Response Efforts

The division is in regular communication with the local Roanoke/Alleghany Health Department. Input was sought from the division's Medical Advisory Board as well as the division's Safety Advisory Committee. Area superintendents communicate regularly sharing ideas and plans for maintain health and safety. The superintendent regularly participates in statewide Virginia Superintendent's meetings where information is shared from the Virginia Department of Education.

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned are below.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Screening, monitoring and testing are essential components of limiting the spread of COVID-19. An important part of keeping our schools safe is actively encouraging sick staff and students to stay home if they are ill and emphasizing to all the importance of knowing the symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with these symptoms or combinations of these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Fever (CDC defines this as 100.4F or greater, or when one feels warm to the touch, or gives a history of feeling feverish)
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell

Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

COVID-19 Screening Questions

Students and staff should assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 before reporting to school; and/or may be asked the following by school personnel upon arrival:

YES or NO since my last day in the building, have I had any of the following:

- A new fever (100.4F or higher) or a sense of having a fever since you were last in school?
- A new cough or breathing difficulty that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- Chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- A new congestion or runny nose?
- New muscle aches (myalgia) that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise)?
- New cold or allergy symptoms not attributed to another health condition?
- Have you been exposed to anyone who tested positive or suspected positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 14 days? An exposure is defined as physical contact within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more during a 24 hour period.

If an individual answers YES to any of the screening questions before arriving, they should stay home and not enter the building. The staff member will contact the designated administrator and the parent will call and notify the school. The school nurse will call both the staff member and the parent back to walk the parent through an additional assessment and will provide direction based on VDH guidance.

Masks

- Beginning Monday, February 28, 2022 masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors and will no longer be required on school buses.
- Students and staff who return from a 5 day isolation or quarantine period will still be required to wear a mask for days 6-10 or days 11-15 depending on the situation.
- Students returning on day 6-10 or 11-15 are required to wear a mask during recess and during athletics or during extracurricular activities for days 6-10.

Physical Distancing

- According to the VDH and VDOE Interim Guidance: there is no medical reason for a vaccinated and/or masked school staff to treat an otherwise healthy unmasked student any differently than a healthy masked student.

- School staff may **not** require students, who have been opted out by their parent, to wear a mask to engage in any classroom activity, small group activities, or one-on-one instruction. The only exception would be in a class that had a mask requirement prior to the pandemic such as EMT at Burton. Students who are serving as interns, apprentice, or who visit a business or organization that requires masking within their facilities will be expected to mask as required by the business or organization.
- Classroom seating will remain the same. Based on the importance of in-person learning and the effort to get all students back into classrooms, students will be seated less than 3 feet apart in many cases. Distancing of 3 feet will be implemented to the extent practicable.
- Schools will go back to normal lunch seating.
- Field trips and school visitors will be limited when the community transmission level is high based on the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels by County dashboard.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- The school will continue to teach and encourage hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette daily at school.
 - Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash immediately
 - Use hand sanitizer throughout the day
- Teachers will encourage and provide time for students to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Schools will post signs and messages in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures, describe how to stop the spread of germs and proper hand washing.

Custodial Services

- Support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, replacement cloth face coverings and no-touch trash cans.
- Schools will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, light switches, sink handles) within the school. Transportation staff address cleaning and disinfecting on school buses at least daily.

Actions taken to promote Custodial Employee Safety:

Additional hand sanitization stands have been deployed. Staggered start times have been implemented for all crews. The use of facial covering was made mandatory when social distancing (6 ft.) could not be achieved. This applies to both the job site and while driving. Implementing smaller crews working together.

Below are the current strategies employed by RCPS and Contracted Custodial Staff in the extenuation of the COVID- 19 virus. Please note that RCPS has begun to build additional inventory. However, increased cleaning will likely result in the need to increase staffing. This increase in staffing and material will have a financial impact on the sites.

Inventory: RCPS and Contracted Custodial has been working to procure all needed custodial supplies as made available.

Equipment: RCPS and Contracted Custodial has procured electrostatic sprayers, backpack sprayers, and Clorox 360 machine utilized in the disinfection process. These units will be utilized in the cleaning plan to address the disinfecting of classroom space and public gathering areas.

Current Approved Custodial Cleaning Plan- COVID-19:

The attached cleaning specification approved by RCPS, and FDA will continue to be used with the following modifications.

Additional cleaners have been added with EPA rated Viruscides.

- Frequencies of cleaning tasks will be modified on a building-by-building bases, based on occupancy and traffic.
- RCPS / Custodial Contractor will be focusing on highly used areas. Providing additional disinfecting and cleaning as needed.
- RCPS and Contracted Custodial will provide services for specific areas when requested by the site.
- Areas that are not being utilized i.e., Secured/closed areas will be cleaned less frequently, and the focus and frequency will be on public spaces and high traffic areas.
- RCPS and Custodial Contractor recommends that staff/faculty clean and disinfect their personal items in their office, i.e. Phone, keyboard, mouse, TV and computer. RCPS and Custodial Contractor will supply product based on availability.
- RCPS and Custodial Contractor will provide disinfectant spray bottles and product upon request.

Process for Special Cleaning: Areas with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure:

RCPS and Custodial Contractor will utilize electrostatic and back-pack sprayers, and Clorox 360 Machine to remediate areas that could have been contaminated with the Covid-19. Below is the process for treating the contaminated areas.

- A request will be generated identifying specific areas that need disinfecting.
- Any areas having been exposed to the virus will be cleaned by RCPS /Custodial Contractor employees.
- As per recommendation of the CDC, isolation rooms will be cleaned after each use by either a student or staff member.
- If exposure is in common areas, RCPS / Custodial Contractor will disinfect immediately.
- An electrostatic / backpack sprayer or Clorox 360 Machine containing an EPA rated virucide will be utilized followed by a wipe down after the process.
- RCPS / Custodial Contractor will notify the request initiator once task is complete.

General Cleaning Procedures during COVID-19:

Added safety procedures for the disinfecting process during the COVID-19 Pandemic include the following:

- Change out gloves when needed.
- Utilize spray bottles or a bucket of disinfectant.
- Wipes and rags are both used to clean touch points in the office.
- Disinfectant utilized in buckets is changed out based on soil loading.

Maintenance

- Cleaning ALL HVAC unit coils
- Replacement of all HVAC Filters
- Inspection and Change-out of Filters on 4-month rotation
- Increase Outside Air settings on all HVAC units to double the volume of outside air introduced to the HVAC system.
- Negative Pressure room – isolation room in each
- All water fountains and water sources were flushed and inspected prior to the opening of school. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to fill rather than drinking directly from the fountain.

Transportation

- Designated windows will be slightly lowered to increase air flow
- Standardizing disinfectant cleaning products
- Same safety protocols used for all vehicles used by RCPS

Maintenance

- Cleaning ALL HVAC unit coils
- Replacement of all HVAC Filters
- Inspection and Change-out of Filters on 3 month rotation
- Double Outside Air Settings on all HVAC units (this will result in increased utility costs)
- Negative Pressure room – isolation room in each
- All water fountains and water sources will be flushed and inspected prior to opening of school. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to fill rather than drinking directly from the fountain. The fountains will be disinfected regularly throughout the day.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

- The school nurse at each school will serve as the designated COVID-19 point of contact for all parents with concerns. All concerns will then be shared with Charlene Vail, RCPS School Nurse Manager, who will serve as the liaison with the VDH.
- Parents of students who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should notify the school principal and participate in the development of an individual health and education plan.
- Parent volunteers will be allowed to assist with principal approved activities.
- Students and staff will be directed to complete daily health checks prior to reporting to school.

- Staff who determine they must stay home from work based on the COVID-19 daily health check responses will first contact the principal or designee at their home school. The principal will notify the school nurse who will follow-up with a phone call to the staff member to provide guidance based on each individual situation. If the school nurse recommends the employee to be out of work based on COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, the employee will contact HR to walk through leave options.

Health Protocol

- A system will be in place at each school for students to visit the school nurse that ensures students maintain 3-6 feet distance and allows time for cleaning and disinfecting between visits as needed. The nurse will socially distance students in the clinic as needed to minimize COVID-19 transmission.
- CDC/VDH guidelines will be followed in determining who should go home, be quarantined, how long, and when they can return.
- The school nurse will work directly with parents of students who are exhibiting symptoms or who have been in contact with someone who was positive for COVID-19 and will help develop a health plan. The education plan for each student who must be out of school will be developed with the support of the principal.
- Nurses will wear a mask as needed during routine student visits. An N95 mask will be worn if a student presents with COVID-19 like symptoms. Medical grade PPE including N95 mask (with fit testing), gown, gloves and face shield will be worn during aerosol generating procedures. Aerosol generating procedures will be done in a separate room with appropriate ventilation. Healthcare providers are encouraged to treat students with asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions with an inhaler and spacer while at school. Parents should contact their school nurse and healthcare provider to discuss the student's needs. Nurses will follow guidance from VDH/CDC on aerosol generating procedures.
- Masks will be placed on symptomatic students (regardless of the mask opt-out) and staff who will then be moved to an isolation area. Exhaust fans have been installed in isolation areas to create negative air pressure.
- Classroom closures will be based on advice from VDH and may include quarantine of some students, a class of students and teacher, multiple classes of students and teachers, or the entire school depending on exposure and size of an outbreak. Efforts will be made to cohort students as much as possible. If an entire school is shut down this would include all activities associated with the school.
- All typical health services will be maintained.

Student Instruction during a Quarantine

- Secondary students will access assignments on Blackboard and can communicate with individual teachers as needed using school email.
- Elementary students will be provided a laptop to take home to access assignments on Blackboard. A parent must sign the Acceptable Use Agreement prior to providing a laptop for use at home. If a parent would prefer, paper copies of the assignments can be provided. The parent would need to contact the school to make those arrangements.

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (Updated by the VDH 1/26/22)

- VDH is moving away from universal case investigation and contact tracing. The focus will be on follow-up of outbreaks and cases in high-risk settings.
 - Schools are no longer expected to conduct contact tracing on every individual case, only when they identify a potential outbreak or in high risk settings
 - The case data by school will still be reported to the RCPS Dashboard as parent notification
 - Example would be if 10% or more of a large group is experiencing transmission.
 - Outbreak = 3 or more positive cases in one classroom, known to be exposures to each other, within a 14-day period that can be linked to a specific person, place or time.
 - Daily class attendance role reviewed by the school nurse
 - Look for 3 or more students who are out due to COVID-19 and will compare to see if there is a possible connection to the cases resulting in transmission within the classroom. If so, the nurse would contact trace as needed. If no connection, the nurse will not contact trace.
 - Athletic teams and other activity group leaders will report to the school nurse when they know of 2 or more individuals within their team or groups that have been removed from activity due to COVID-19.
 - Staff COVID-19 cases by school are tracked daily, school nurses will continue to contact trace staff cases.
 - High risk areas like PK, K and, special needs classrooms will still be contact traced.
 - Isolation and quarantine guidelines have not changed for known cases and contacts. See the VDH guidance document below.
 - Schools have the authority to make decisions regarding when to exclude children and staff from school or work due to illness.
 - Generally speaking, anyone **not** up-to-date with the COVID-19 vaccinations who learns they have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 must quarantine at home for 5 days and follow other public health advice (see the links to the VDH charts below).
 - Individuals who are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations do not need to quarantine if they are considered a close contact with someone with COVID-19 and remain asymptomatic.
 - Children ages 5-11 years who have completed their primary series are up-to-date.
 - Students ages 12-17 years old who completed their primary series but have not yet received all eligible boosters can forgo quarantine at this point in time, to allow time for them to catch up on booster doses. These students are advised to continue to monitor symptoms and take other precautions such as masking for the 10 days following known exposure.

Definition of close contact – no change

- In general, VDH uses within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more.

- In K-12 setting, student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is NOT considered a close contact as long as both students wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

Student Test to Stay (TTS) Program

- This program will become available once the test kit shipment arrives and has been distributed to all school.
- Test to Stay is a practice consisting of contact tracing and daily (5 days) COVID-19 testing
 - PK students do not qualify for this program as it is only designed to serve K-12.
 - Students only, unvaccinated who are identified as a close contact
 - Must be asymptomatic, remain asymptomatic
 - Willing and able to wear a mask correctly for the entire quarantine period
 - Parent must sign a consent form
- Requirements of Test to Stay
 - Wear mask for 10 days, except when eating and drinking
 - Must take a rapid test every morning for first 5 days after exposure (would not test on weekends)
 - Rapid test performed at home with a proctor
 - Student monitors symptoms for 10 days and immediately isolates when symptomatic
 - If a student become symptomatic but tests negative can they come to school? No, they must isolate at home and must complete the quarantine at home.
 - Parents/guardians agree to comply
- **Those who are asymptomatic or symptom-free who do not want to participate in the Test to Stay program will be required to quarantine based on the guidance.**

VDH Algorithm for K-12 Parents: What to do if my child is ill or exposed to COVID-19? (1/21/22)

https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Algorithm_Child-School-K12-Guidance.pdf

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick - Current VDH Recommendations

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/Home-IsolationQuarantine-Release-Graphic_FINAL.pdf

Student Return to School

- The school nurse will have a conversation with student's parent and will evaluate circumstances to determine if a pre-existing condition could be the cause of the symptoms.
- If the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition, the nurse will recommend the parent speak to a health care provider.
- If an alternative diagnosis is determined by the health care provider, the student can return based on usual guidance related to the diagnosis. The student/parent should provide a note to return to school.
- If a parent does not contact a health care provider and symptoms improve, the student can return after being symptom free for 72 hours. If symptoms continue beyond 72 hours, it is recommended to follow-up with a health care provider. The student/parent will need to send a note about the absence upon return to school.
- If the health care provider recommends the student be tested and quarantine the student will need to stay at home until test results have returned or the student will need to quarantine for five days.
- If the test returns negative, the student may return to school with a copy of the negative COVID-19 test result or a note from their healthcare provider indicating the COVID-19 test was negative.
- If the student's test is positive, we will follow VDH guidelines for isolation. The nurse will follow up with a parent prior to the student returning to school. Student may return to school once isolation requirements are met. If the student continues to be symptomatic on day 5, they should not return to school until fever free without fever-reducing medication and improved symptoms for at least 24 hours. Note: loss of taste and smell might persist for weeks or months and this should NOT delay the end of isolation. Parents of the siblings who attend school or other family members who work in the district will be advised on quarantine based on the situation.
- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period or having exposure to the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissing) while they were contagious. The defined time starts two days prior to the person becoming symptomatic or testing positive.
- If a student is positive and another student is at 3 feet to 6 feet away and both are wearing a mask, then the exposed student will not need to quarantine. (This does not apply to staff members.) If either person is not wearing a mask or are closer than 3 feet, then the exposed person would need to quarantine if not vaccinated. If the positive person is not wearing a mask, then all close contacts as defined above will need to quarantine if not vaccinated.
- Parents must report any exposure or positive case in a student/household to the school of attendance.

Employee Return to Work

If an alternative diagnosis is determined, the employee can return based on usual guidance. If the employee is out longer than 4 days a note will need to be provided to return to work. These notes should be given to their principal.

No Contact with Health Care Provider

If an employee does not contact a health care provider and symptoms improve, they can return after being symptom free for 72 hours.

Health Care Provider Recommends Testing and Quarantine for Symptomatic Person If the health care provider recommends an employee be tested then the staff member will need to stay at home until test results have returned or will need to quarantine for five days.

- If the health care provider recommends an employee be tested then the staff member will need to stay at home until test results have returned or will need to quarantine for five days.
- Negative Covid-19 test: If the test returns negative, the employee may return to work with a copy of the negative Covid-19 test result or a note from their healthcare provider indicating the COVID -19 test was negative. Home rapid Covid-19 antigen tests will not be accepted for a negative result. However, test results from a rapid Covid-19 antigen test completed with a provider or testing center will be accepted. A positive Covid-19 result on a home rapid antigen test will be accepted. The nurse will keep a copy of the letter/results.
- Positive COVID-19 test: The employee may return to work once isolation requirements have been met. If an employee continues to be symptomatic on day 5, they should not return to work until fever free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours and improved symptoms. Note: loss of taste and smell might persist for weeks or months and this should NOT delay the end of isolation.
- The employee may return to work once isolation requirements have been met. If an employee continues to be symptomatic on day 5, they should not return to work until fever free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours and improved symptoms. Note: loss of taste and smell might persist for weeks or months and this should NOT delay the end of isolation.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST IN ASYMPTOMATIC PERSON

A person who has a positive Covid-19 test and has remained asymptomatic will need to isolate for 5 days from the date of the positive test. If person becomes symptomatic, follow guidance above for person who is symptomatic.

The nurses will follow isolation requirements set out by the Virginia Department of Health when advising families and staff. Close contacts need to follow appropriate guidance for household or non-household contacts per the Virginia Department of Health as noted below.

Notify Charlene Vail regarding any known positive cases in the school. (562-3900, ext 29801)

Guide for Employees Unable to Return to Work or Requesting Accommodations

All contracted employees of RCPS, regardless of vaccination status, will receive a total of cumulative 8 days of COVID-19 leave this year based on the recommendation of the school nurse. This can also be used to care for a child who has COVID-19 or needs to quarantine or when a childcare facility is closed due to COVID-19.

First year staff members who do not have any accrued leave will need to notify the school nurse so they can share this information with human resources.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Roanoke County Public Schools is not currently using diagnostic and screening testing with students or staff.

Vaccination Efforts

Working as a partner with the Roanoke City Alleghany Health Department the school division helped organize optional VDH vaccination clinics for RCPS staff and students age 5-18. School was closed on two days to allow staff to attend the vaccination clinics to receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Bus transportation was provided for students age 12-18, with parent permission, to a school in the division serving as a student vaccinate site during school hours. The vaccination clinics were offered for both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

VDH has also schedule several vaccination clinics at our schools after hours to help with community access.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students with disabilities have individualized IEP or 504 plans that consider their individual and unique needs. If additional accommodations and/or services are necessary as a result of health and safety concerns related to the current health crisis, the student's plan outlines these provisions.

Continuity of Services

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Academic needs are currently being met through in-person instructions for all students grades PK-12. Parents who have requested online instruction due to COVID-19 related concerns have been give an online option provided by a third party. For more information, contact Stephanie Hogan, Executive Director of Elementary Instruction at smhogan@rcps.us or Mike Riley, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction at mriley@rcps.us.

Student social, emotional, and mental health needs are currently being met through the following student support provided by school and LIFE counselors:

- Are available for students and their families through phone conferencing, and individual meetings.
- Will provide programming to meet counseling standards by addressing topics such as social and emotional learning, mental health, Expect Respect bullying prevention, and career education. Counselors will deliver material to students in the classroom.

- Will continue to offer individual and group counseling for students.
- Elementary School Counselors will focus on social and emotional learning through the Second Step curriculum. This will include problem solving, emotion management, and empathy. School counselors will also focus on PBIS Expect Respect and counseling standards along with providing education and activities related to academic/career plans.
- Middle School Counselors will focus on topics such as social and emotional learning through the Second Step curriculum that includes mindset, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution. Counselors will also focus on PBIS expect respect and Counseling SOLs. Additional areas will include enrollments, schedule changes, registration, and academic/career plans.
- High School Counselors will focus on schedule changes, college applications, registration, AP and PSAT testing, dual enrollment, academic/career plans, and graduation requirements.
- LIFE Counselors at the secondary level are available to parents and students to address any mental health need and provide assistance with resources.
- An on-line form will be available for secondary students to request counseling support. In addition, hotline numbers will be provided for 24-hour support during emergencies.
- Resources will also be available on our RCPS School Counseling web page.

Food Service is currently providing meals for all in-person and virtual students during the school day. When classrooms or schools close temporarily due to COVID-19, food service is available to those students for pick-up at the school for the duration of the closure.

Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Roanoke County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

8/12 Public Hearing
 8/16 Parent Advisory Council
 8/22 Student Advisory Council Survey
 8/23 Employee Advisory Committee
 8/24 Principal Meeting
 8/25 SEAC Suggestions

Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Roanoke County Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

Roanoke County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.rcps.us/domain/1613>;
- The plan is available in multiple languages as it has a translate options associated with the website;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Cammie Williams at crwilliams@rcps.us to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, at rstegall@rcps.us.

Anonymous Complaints

Employees, parent, or students who wish to place anonymous complaints regarding policies and procedures that are not being followed related to COVID-19 may send a complaint through the RCPS Speak-Up anonymous reporting system. Complaints will be investigated and handled according to current COVID-19 standards and guidelines. Employees, parent, and students shall not be reprimanded nor retaliated against in any way for reporting violations.

Speak Up – call or text 540-595-0706 or email to speakup@student.rcps.us