

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR ILLNESS PROTOCOL

July 31, 2020

The following describes the RCS illness protocol for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. While it is not possible to eliminate all the risk of spreading COVID-19 illness, our goal is to try to reduce the risk to our RCS students, families, and staff.

First, all parents need to carefully make the decision whether or not to send their children to school. The CDC has put together a good resource to help you make this decision: [School Decision Tool](#)

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN HOME WHEN THEY ARE NOT FEELING WELL.

The following protocols will be followed in working to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus at school:

Daily Monitoring/Screening:

- Each day, PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE for monitoring and ensuring that they do not send a child to school if he/she has **any** new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms not normal for them (see symptom list below) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
 - Possible COVID-19 Symptoms:
 - Fever (temperature of 100.0F or greater)
 - Chills/shivering
 - Cough (for students with chronic allergy/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Significant muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- While our community transmission remains high and we are operating on Level 3, all students will come through the designated carpool lanes each morning and be screened for COVID-19 symptoms. This will include a temperature check prior to entering the building. High school students who drive themselves will enter building H foyer and staff members will screen students at that location.



- Parents will not be permitted to walk their child(ren) into the building.
- Students will be assigned to a cohort group, which limits their interaction with the larger student body and contains any illness that may occur. Within cohort groups, students will be permitted to interact more naturally, with partner and small group activities. However, added layers of protection including masks, additional sanitization and social distancing will be used often to inhibit the spread of illness, even within the cohort group.

With regard to all preventative measures, we recognize the following:

- Children are more likely than adults to be asymptomatic or only have mild symptoms, so screening will fail to identify some students with COVID-19 infection.
- Symptom screening will only identify that a student may have an illness but that illness may not be COVID-19.

If a student or staff member is positively confirmed with COVID-19, the health department will be notified, and the entire school will be notified respecting HIPAA and ADA confidentiality laws. In addition, if your child has had close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes) with anyone who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 **OR directly exposed** to infectious secretions (such as being coughed on), he/she must remain off-campus until the 14 day quarantine period has passed.

RCS will notify parents any time we become aware that a child has been in close contact with anyone who is lab confirmed with COVID-19 at school. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

What happens if my child becomes ill at school?

- Any student showing signs of illness while at school will be separated/isolated from other students/staff and evaluated by the nurse.
- If the student is experiencing signs/symptoms of COVID-19, a parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student. Please make arrangements to have the child picked up within one hour as stated in the RCS Handbook. Please ensure that your pick-up list is current in RenWeb since we are unable to send students home with anyone that is not on the list.
- Your child can return to school when readmission criteria have been met (see below).

Readmission Criteria:

- If your child has been diagnosed with COVID-19, your child may return to school when:
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever (**less than** 100.0 F) without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved.

- If your child has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and is not evaluated by a medical provider or tested for COVID-19, your child is assumed to have COVID-19 and can return when the above 3 criteria are met.
- **OR**, If your child has symptoms that could be COVID-19, improves, and wants to return before the isolation period is over, a note from the medical provider is required that documents medical clearance for an illness other than COVID-19. The existing RCS illness policy would still apply including: Fever free (**less than** 100.0F) for **at least** 24 hours without fever-reducing medications; free of vomiting and/or diarrhea for **at least** 24 hours; on antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours for bacterial infections such as strep throat.
- Contact the school nurse for authorization prior to sending your child back to school.

Notify the School Nurse, Pam Evans (pevans@rcseagles.org) if:

- Your child has been diagnosed (lab-confirmed) with COVID-19.
- Your child has symptoms and could have COVID-19.
- You have any questions or concerns about whether or not to send your child to school.

Reference Information:

[CDC/ Preparing For a Safe Return To School](#)

[CDC/COVID-19](#)

[What to Do if You \(or Your Child\) Are Sick](#)

[Isolate if You \(or Your Child\) Are Sick](#)

[Quarantine If You \(or Your Child\) Might Be Sick](#)

[Screening Considerations](#)

[CDC/Considerations for Schools](#)