



# Frequently Asked Questions

RSUSD Reopening School

Revised March 2021

## 1. Why can't all students return to school at the same time?

Depending on what California county tier the district is in determines how students are brought back to in-person instruction. These safety guidelines are directed and changed by the California Department of Public Health and tier assignments are monitored weekly. It is important to turn in your intent to return form so you will be notified of when your student can return to in-person instruction.

## 2. If they already enrolled in school, do we need to do it again to return?

No, you will just need to complete the intent to return form.

## 3. How do I get the intent to return form?

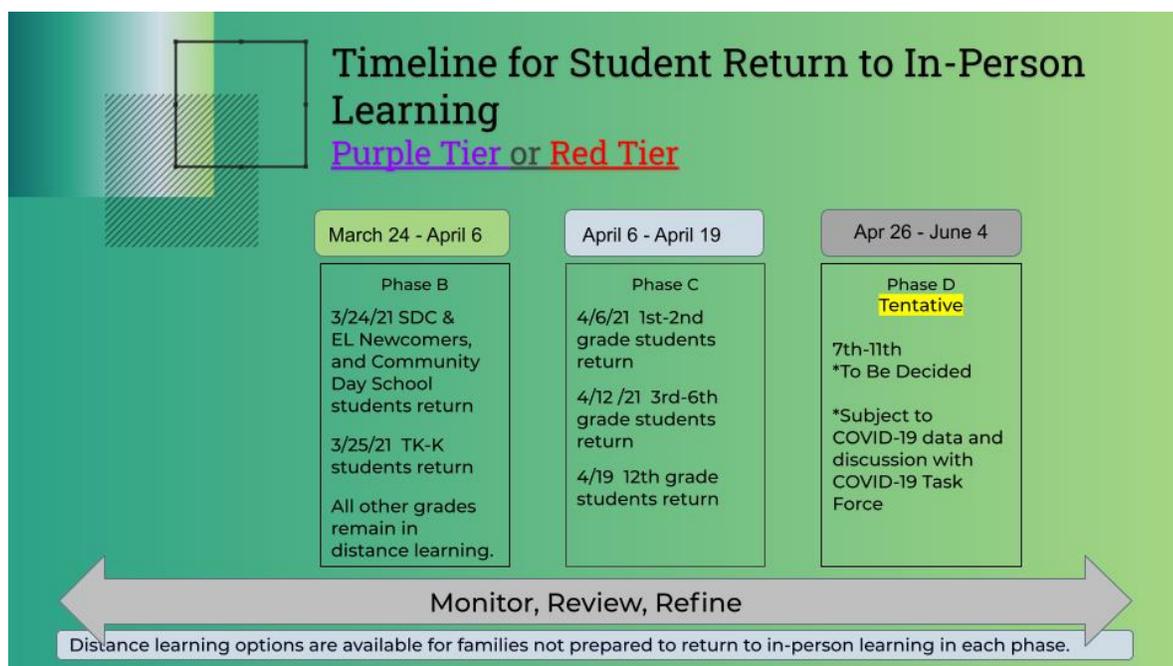
The intent to return forms were sent home in the mail. This form needs to be filled out to hold a place for your child if you plan for them to participate in in-person instruction or the distant learning class. If you do not receive one, please contact your school site. Families that do not fill out a form will remain on distance learning.

## 4. Will we have a choice to keep students in a distance learning model instead of in-person instruction?

Yes, when it is time for students to physically return to campus, you will have the option to keep them in a distance learning model.

## 5. What date is my child scheduled to return to school?

The following includes our current plan for Reopening Phases:



**6. Will my child have the same teacher for in-person instruction as their current distance learning teacher?**

Our goal is to try to keep the same teacher with your child; however, we may not be able to honor this in all cases, as it depends on the number of families requesting each option.

**7. What days and times will students attend school for in-person instruction?**

Each site will provide families with this information.

**8. Will parents be able to change their decision between distance learning and in person instruction and if so what will be the process?**

RSUSD understands individual parent comfort level with returning to in-person instruction is an important consideration when bringing students back to the building. Schools will be provided with parent preferences related to in-person or distance learning for the 2020-21 school year. This preference information is being used to help schools create schedules and teacher assignments. The Student Letter of Intent to Return indicates that your selection is for the remainder of the school year. However, if circumstances require a change, contact your site administrator to discuss and determine what options are available.

**9. How may I access the most updated information regarding our reopening?**

The RSUSD Reopening Plan is posted on our webpage at [rsusd.org](http://rsusd.org). Dates have been tentatively assigned to each phase and will be updated as new information becomes available.

**10. On the first day of school can we walk our students to class?**

At the moment, no. This remains a concern for the younger students. With the phased in approach of grade levels, additional staff will be available to assist with walking students to class. Visitors are very limited at this time.

**11. If a student's teacher is out, how will a substitute work?**

A substitute will be assigned to the class as we have done in the past. They will be required to follow all district policies related to COVID-19.

**12. How will interventions/tutoring continue when we return in-person?**

Students will still participate in interventions/tutoring, but it will not conflict with their in-person instruction.

**13. Will students still be able to use independent study when traveling with their families for the holidays?**

Yes, the independent study process has not changed.

**14. If students receive special education services and choose to remain in a distance learning model, will they receive services based on their Individual Learning Plan (IEP)?**

Individualized Education Plans will be implemented to the extent feasible and as outlined in their Distance Learning Plan.

**15. Will there be transportation to school for students?**

We highly encourage parents to transport their own students during the pandemic. If transportation is needed, contact your school site to find out your students pick up location. Just remember that students are required to follow district policies involving masks and social distancing will.

#### **16. Where will the students with symptoms sit on the bus?**

Students exhibiting symptoms prior to the bus departing will not be loaded onto the bus. It is recommended that you wait with your child at the bus stop if possible. If a student develops symptoms during the route they will be isolated to the maximum extent possible.

#### **17. Is there going to be an After School Program?**

At this time there will not be an in-person After School Program offered. We will continue to run our virtual After School program.

#### **18. Will students be sharing desks?**

Students will be assigned a desk for their personal use. If the desk is to be shared at any point it will be cleaned between use.

#### **19. Do students need to take supplies to school?**

Students may bring their backpack and chromebook when directed to school. We ask you not to send other school supplies, since the site will continue to supply those for each student.

#### **20. Will students eat on campus?**

Elementary school students will be provided with a snack. Please be sure your child eats breakfast prior to coming to school, it is important they eat prior to coming to school each day. Middle school and high school students will be provided brunch if they are participating in in-person instruction. All food items, such as snacks, will only be handled by the food service staff, teacher, and student. Lunches will continue to be available on Wednesday's Meal Distribution Day. Meal distribution will continue to provide breakfast and lunch. Water stations will be available with disposable cups for students. Your child may bring a labeled water bottle to school for their personal use.

#### **21. Will students get recess?**

Recess will be determined by the guidelines from the State and the Kings County Public Health Department. As our County moves through less restrictive tiers students will have more access to play equipment and activities will be determined by the current tier status. As of right now students will have a break to use the restroom, but must remain physically distanced.

#### **22. If bathrooms are opened all day, how often will they be sanitized?**

Restroom will be frequently monitored by staff. Custodians will be available for sanitation duties and will provide increased cleaning to frequently accessed spaces or high touched surfaces.

#### **23. Does my student need to take their chromebook to school?**

Your student's teacher will let the student know when chromebooks are required at school. It is important to charge chromebooks the night before use.

#### **24. Will students have to wear masks?**

CDPH changed their mask requirement in January to include anyone over the age of 2. This means that all students TK-12 are required to wear a mask unless exempt. Exemption requires a note from a health care provider including the medical condition, mental health condition, or disability, as well as the reason for the exemption. This form can be picked up at your student's school site.

## 25. Will the school be providing masks?

We recommend students wear a mask they are comfortable with but if they don't have one available, one will be provided by the district. Also, remember to wash reusable masks daily if possible. This information can be found in the packet you received from your school.

## 26. What is the medical exemption for not wearing a mask?

Exemption requires a note from a health care provider including the medical condition, mental health condition, or disability, as well as the reason for the exemption. This form can be obtained at your student's school site.

## 27. How will we decide when a student needs to be sent home?

If a student or staff member present symptoms of COVID-19 while at school:

- The individual will be sent to the office to be evaluated by a trained staff member.
- The individual will be required to wear a face covering, unless the symptoms or illness requires an exception.
- The student will be held in an area with other symptomatic individuals until someone on their contact list comes to take them home. **It is critical that contact information is verified in Aeries Parent Portal and that parents/guardians check communications from the school in a timely manner.**
- Symptomatic individuals will be asked to stay home until all the following criteria has been met:
  - o It has been at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms
  - o Symptoms are improving
  - o Has been fever free for 24 hours
- One of our strongest defenses for slowing the spread of the virus in our schools is **staying home if you are sick.**

## 28. Is the Wellness room for everyone and how many can it hold?

Our Wellness room is designed to space students 6 feet apart from each other. Maximum capacity varies at each school site. We encourage parents to update all phone numbers and add emergency contacts to your child's registration cards in the event that your student becomes ill. It is important to be able to reach you to limit exposure.

## 29. What if my child is ill, but not COVID related? Do they go back when they feel better and are they absent?

If your child has a COVID-19 symptom, they will be asked to quarantine for 10 days. If your child has a preexisting condition that has symptoms of COVID-19 we must have this documentation on file or your child will have to follow the quarantine guidelines.

## 30. Do students need a COVID test before returning to school?

COVID testing is not required prior to returning to school. If your child starts to have symptoms at school, it is recommended, but not required at this time.

## 31. What happens if my student has asthma coughs or allergies? Do they have to stay home?

It is recommended that all students with a medical condition be seen by their doctor to receive recommendations on school attendance and treatment. All students with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home if a doctor's note is not on file with the school. We do understand that some symptoms are similar to COVID-19 symptoms so it is important to receive this paperwork.

### 32. Do students have to get the vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine available for students younger than 16 years of age. Once a vaccine is available we will notify qualifying students and families of vaccination availability.

### 33. Are there handwashing stations and hand sanitizer available for students?

Handwashing stations have been added to all school sites. Students will still have access to school bathrooms to assist in handwashing as normal. Hand Sanitizer dispensers have been installed in every classroom and all common areas.

### 34. If a staff member or student gets COVID-19 how long will they stay in quarantine and how does this affect their attendance?

The current quarantine period is for a minimum of 10 days. However, the return date is based on symptom improvement and must be fever free, without the use of medications, for 24 hours. The district will not accept negative COVID-19 tests to shorten the quarantine period at this time for readmission to in-person instruction. Students in quarantine can continue to receive instruction through distance learning.

### 35. Will we have to close a school once we have reopened?

Once schools are opened for in-person instruction will not be required to close if the county moves back into the most restrictive Purple Tier. As the district moves tiers you will be notified of changes to class schedules and grade levels opening. According to the California Department of Public Health, schools must close a classroom, school or an entire school district based on the following criteria:



Once a classroom, school or school district has been closed due to COVID-19 cases, typically reopening will occur within 14 days of the last exposure.

### 36. Are staff required to vaccinate?

No they are not required, but they are encouraged.

### 37. How is learning loss going to be addressed?

The district will support learning through strong instructional practices, a commitment to grade-level teaching, strategies to engage students, including contacting them when they are absent, and providing opportunities for intensive intervention. Teachers are available for office hours and intervention. If your student needs assistance, please be sure to reach out to your child's teacher.

### 38. What type of future parent training will be offered to help my child while they are at home with distance learning?

A Parent Training Calendar of Professional Learning will be posted on the district website and distributed by school sites.