

Recommendation for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction August 2021  
(Updated February 2022- Mask Optional Plan)



ROWVA Parents/Guardians,

Upon approval of this plan, we will transition from a mask requirement to a mask optional plan. As you will note, there are several changes in this updated plan to include updated information on masking, close contact, contact tracing and quarantine information. Please also note that items such as cleaning, hygiene & respiratory etiquette, among others have remained the same. We desperately want the opportunity to continue to educate your students. We ask you for support so that we can get back to our primary purpose of educating your student.

The ROWVA CUSD 208 Administration Team:

Superintendent Sornberger

Principal Kerry Danner

Principal Adam Seaney

## INFORMATION IN FAQ FORMAT

1. **Will ROWVA CUSD offer a fully remote option for the 2021-2022 school year?**
  - a. No. Current ISBE regulations WILL NOT allow for a district to offer a fully remote program at this time. The focus is on getting students back into the school environment.
2. **Will ROWVA contact trace during the 2021-2022 school year?**
  - a. a) No. We will no longer contact trace under the updated plan. District staff will provide courtesy calls if your child is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If you receive a courtesy call and your child starts to develop symptoms, please keep him/her home.
3. **Will my student have to be quarantined if they are identified as a close contact?**
  - a. No. We will make courtesy calls to parents/guardians of close contacts making them aware that their child was a close contact. Quarantine guidelines will no longer be in effect. If you receive a courtesy call and your child starts to develop symptoms, please keep him/her home.
4. **Will my student be excluded from the learning environment if they refuse to wear a mask?**
  - a. a) No. Under this mask optional plan, masks will no longer be a requirement and students will not be excluded from the learning environment for not wearing a mask.
5. **Will my child be disciplined if they refuse to wear a mask?**
  - a. No. Under this plan, masks will be optional.
6. **Will I be told to leave my child's school if I do not wear a mask at school events?**
  - a. No. Under this plan, all school-related events hosted by ROWVA are mask optional. Events hosted by other schools will follow that district's individual masking policy.
7. **Will my student still be required to wear a mask on the bus?**
  - a. Currently, buses fall under a federal CDC mandate that requires masks to be worn at all times while riding public transportation. Masking on buses will continue to be required.
8. **Will the school test my student for COVID if they have symptoms?**
  - a. School personnel will have the ability to test students. This will only happen with written parental consent to the school.
9. **What about sports for the 2021-2022 school year?**
  - a. Under this plan, all sport-related events hosted by ROWVA are mask optional. Sporting events hosted by other schools will follow that district's individual masking policy.
10. **Will ROWVA CUSD require or track COVID-19 vaccination status?**
  - a. No. The district will NOT require vaccination status be shared.
11. **What should I expect regarding lunch?**
  - a. We will return to our hot lunch program this year. Additionally, as a result of the USDA waiver ANY student will be able to eat the main meal free throughout the school year.

**12. What about cleaning and hygiene protocols?**

- a. We will continue with nightly cleanings and multiple cleanings throughout the day using approved products. We also will continue to maintain our hand sanitizing and wiping down desks when they move from room. Good hygiene practices will be a regular topic of conversation with our students.

**13. Will school personnel ensure that my student(s) wears a mask if I choose for my student to do so?**

- a. No. The decision to wear a mask is a personal decision to be made by each student and/or parent. School personnel WILL NOT be responsible for ensuring that your student is following your desire to wear or not wear a mask.

## 1. Optional Mask Use

Under this plan, masks are optional. Every family needs to determine the best course of action for their student(s). Let's all be conscious that one person's decision and reasoning may be different than others. It is imperative that we appreciate and respect those differences and be respectful of each other. Some students and staff will choose to wear a mask and others will choose not to wear a mask. This is a personal decision and students must respect the decisions of others. Remarks or comments made to ridicule a student's decision will not be tolerated. The ROWVA CUSD #208 Bullying Policy, 7:180, is as follows:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic (to include the personal decision to wear a mask) is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non school related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm,

threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the district complaint manager (building administrator) or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

## **2. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine**

If a student is found to be a close contact of a positive case, school personnel will give parents/guardians a courtesy phone call for awareness. This courtesy phone call DOES NOT require the student(s) to quarantine. Please watch for symptoms in your child and keep them home if symptoms arise.

If your student(s) tests positive for COVID-19, that student will need to isolate for 10 days. Students will be excluded from school if they still have symptoms.

### **Educating COVID Positive Students (elementary)**

1. Our remote learning tutor will reach out to the student and family.
  - a. PreK - 3 will use Seesaw, 4th grade - 6th grade will use Google Classroom
  - b. Daily Google Meets with each quarantined student to work with students through the remote learning lessons
  - c. Teachers will be assigning the lessons on the appropriate platform

### **Education COVID Positive Students: Maintaining Instructional Continuity (JH/HS Plan)**

1. Absentee homework policy 2.40 in the ROWVA 7-12 Student Handbook
  - a. "If a Student misses one class period and are given one more class period for completion, ie. Absent Monday, work is expected on Friday. "
  - b. When students return to school, they will have an extra day for each day they are in quarantine to turn in work.
2. Assignments/Instructional materials will be posted to Google Classroom
  - a. I.e. video lectures, copies of notes, instructional videos, written explanation of plan
- a. Additional Instructional support as needed:
  - i. Google Meet during the class meeting time.
  - ii. Teacher availability via email throughout the school day
  - iii. Google Meet after school with the teacher
  - iv. Time during the day with the remote learning tutor

### **3. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation**

School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 “List N” to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.

### **4. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing:

- Continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Assisting young children with handwashing;
- Reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
- Using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when hand washing is not possible; Continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
- Continuing to teach mask etiquette
  - Once a month, Nurse Kelli will go to each PreK-6 classroom and review proper handling of masks and mask hygiene
  - Teachers and staff will identify masks that are dirty, wet, or otherwise soiled. They will give students a clean mask. If time allows, dirty masks will be washed.
  - Families will be encouraged to send additional masks to school with their student(s).

### **5. Lunch**

To allow for greater social distancing, lunch will be served in three sessions instead of two.

### **6. Symptom Screening**

Fever and symptom screening are no longer required by school staff upon arrival at school. However, the firm expectation is that parents keep their students home and immediately notify the school district if their student is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea)

### **7. Situations for Recommended Mask Use in School**

- During small group instruction, when students are in close proximity to each other in the classroom.