



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE | Last updated 3/23/23

## Introduction

Roanoke Rapids Graded School District students, families, and staff have a collective responsibility to create and maintain a safe and healthy learning and work environment for the approximately 2,600 students and 350 employees across all schools and worksites. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this responsibility includes every student and employee taking affirmative steps to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 by strictly adhering to the health safety protocols set forth below.

Health experts serving on the [ABC Science Collaborative](#) and providing health guidance to the school system have repeatedly stressed that **the single most critical factor in a successful return to in-person instruction during the pandemic is the development, implementation, and adherence to health guidelines, requirements, and protocols.**

This plan outlines required health safety protocols, provides links to key health guidance, and reminds students and families of relevant Board policies.

This plan may be updated as public health guidance and conditions change.

**Individuals are required to follow federal, state, and local requirements, if they are more restrictive than RRGSD guidelines. These requirements and recommendations are subject to change at any time, depending on federal, state, and local health guidance and mandates. To see these mandates, visit the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit for K-12](#).**



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

## Mandatory Health Safety Guidance

**Students and Families Must Agree to Follow Covid-19 Health Guidance.**

Students and families are required to familiarize themselves and agree to follow our health guidelines, as described and posted on <https://www.rrgsd.org/page/back-to-school-central>. These guidelines are mandatory and will be strictly enforced.

## Key Protocols for Health Safety

In adherence to our health experts' guidance from the ABC Science Collaborative and [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit for K-12](#), all students must adhere to all protocols including but not limited to the protocols outlined below.

### Complete a Daily Symptom Screening

All students, employees, and any visitors must complete a daily health screening and temperature check before entering school, per the Health Screening guidance. Students riding school transportation must have a completed health attestation form before boarding school transportation.

Students must stay home or leave school immediately if:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not met criteria for returning to school;
- They have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 and have not met criteria for returning to school;
- They have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher; or
- They are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19:
  - Fever (100.4° or higher)
  - Chills
  - New cough
  - New shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - New loss of taste or smell



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

## Wear a Cloth Face Covering

There is growing evidence that wearing face coverings helps reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially for those who are sick but may not know it. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators ("N-95"), or other medical personal protective equipment (PPE). Recent studies on types of face coverings suggest that multi-layered cotton face coverings provide good coverage to keep droplets from spreading when we speak, sneeze, or cough. Individuals should be reminded frequently not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands regularly.

Properly wearing a face covering is a critical measure to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Students, employees, and any visitors must [wear cloth face coverings](#) while on a school campus even when they are six feet or more apart from other individuals, including:

- Inside school buildings
- While traveling on buses, vendor transportation, or other RRGSD vehicles
- Anywhere on RRGSD property, including outside, unless students are on a face covering break

Preschool children, ages 3-4 are expected to wear cloth face coverings if they can reliably wear, remove, and handle cloth face coverings throughout the day.

**All face coverings should fit properly and must be secured safely over the nose, mouth, and under the chin, [per CDC guidelines](#).** Face coverings should not be pulled down for conversations.

The expectation is that students are to provide their own face covering to wear when at school and on bus or vendor transportation. NC Department of Health and Human Services is providing all K - 12 students and school employees with five reusable cloth face coverings.

When at a RRGSD school, if a student does not have access to a face covering, one will be given to them.

Face coverings will be available on buses and vendor transportation for students who do not bring their own face covering.

Students should wash reusable face coverings regularly, per CDC recommendations.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

## Face Covering Breaks

- Employees may give students a face covering break if they can meet all of the following conditions:
  - Spaced 8-10 feet from all other individuals, including employees
  - Students should remain stationary in the same space
  - Students should all face the same direction
- Individuals may briefly remove their face covering while eating or drinking

## Accommodations to Face Covering Requirement

If a student is unable to comply with the face covering requirement, a parent or guardian can request an accommodation for their student that is related to a student's disability, or medical needs. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the nature of the disability or medical need, the availability of alternative safety measures, and current public health guidance.

- To request an accommodation, parents or guardians must complete this [form](#) and return it, along with supporting documentation, to your school's principal.
- Unless a face covering requirement accommodation request form has been approved, all students are subject to the same face covering requirements outlined in this document.

Preschool children, ages 3-5 are expected to wear cloth face coverings if they can reliably wear, remove, and handle cloth face coverings throughout the day. As our preschool teachers will be working with their students to continue learning how to manage this expectation, face covering accommodation requests are not required for preschool families.

## Maintain Social Distance

All schools will social distance whenever possible, but when students return for daily in-person instruction under Plan A, classrooms are not required to maintain 6 feet of space between desks or students if space does not allow. All students should continue to stay apart from other students, employees, and visitors, to maintain as much social distancing as possible.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

All students and employees are required to maintain six feet of social distance whenever face coverings are removed for eating or drinking, even if operating under Plan A.

Students should not congregate during arrival/dismissal and in stationary settings. Schools may alter the typical "traffic flow" inside school buildings to promote and facilitate social distancing in hallways, bathrooms, and during times of transition. Signage will be placed throughout the school building to indicate guidelines.

## Wash Hands Frequently

Students will be provided opportunities to and should wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. When soap and water is not readily available, students should use hand sanitizer, which will be provided in every classroom and school entrances and exits.

## Resources for Students and Families for Health Safety Guidance

[Videos](#) from the Wake County Public School System are available for students and families about face coverings, hand washing, health screenings, social distancing, and water fountains to support families in preparing students for return to in-person instruction safely.

## Model Compliance

As part of our return to in-person instruction, schools will be provided resources to educate and encourage students about the importance of health safety guidance. Lessons will be included as part of our return to in-person instruction to ensure students are taught our health safety expectations.

All students, families, and employees are expected to model compliance with face-coverings and other protocols to create a school culture aligned with safety.

Students can report to a teacher, employee, or an administrator if anyone on school property is not following health and safety requirements.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

Ensuring widespread compliance with protocols is essential. RRGSD will not tolerate any retaliation against a student or employee who reports instances of noncompliance.

## Consequences for Violation of Health Protocols

Face covering requirements and other health protocols are critical tools for creating and maintaining a healthy environment in our schools and limiting the spread of COVID-19.

As part of our return to in-person instruction, schools will educate and support students and families on the importance of health safety guidance to support, encourage, and model the behaviors we expect of all students.

In instances where a student inadvertently violates health safety guidance, the staff will remind the student of the proper protocol.

We will work with students through non-disciplinary interventions that include, but are not limited to:

- 1) student-parent-teacher or student-parent-administrator conferences;
- 2) behavior contracts;
- 3) reward systems;
- 4) oral or written warnings;
- 5) referrals to school counselors;
- 6) referrals to programs or agencies that support at-risk students;

Teachers and administrators are encouraged to solicit the assistance of designated school-based or central office staff in developing appropriate responses and interventions in specific cases.

When support and non-disciplinary interventions are not enough to change student behavior that may risk the health safety of a school community, [Board Policy Code: 4300 Student Behavior](#) authorizes disciplinary consequences, including in-school or out-of-school suspension.. Additionally, willful or repeated failures to wear face coverings at school and other violations of the safety protocols could result in an involuntary transfer to a virtual learning environment.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE | Last updated 3/23/23

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL.**

[Link to Signature Page](#)

By signing and returning this page, you acknowledge that you have received and understand the expectations outlined in the RRGSD “Student Accountability and Required Health Protocols”

This form will be kept at your child's school.

-----

Parent or Guardian's Signature

-----

Date

To enable us to properly record that you have returned this sheet, please carefully print the information below and ask your student to sign to acknowledge receipt and understanding of expectations outlined in the RRGSD “Student Accountability and Required Health Protocols”

-----

Student's Name

-----

Student's Grade

-----

Student's Signature

-----

Date



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE | Last updated 3/23/23

## Safe Return to School Plan

### 2020-21 Full In-Person Reentry Dates

2020-21 Dates	Clara Hearne	Belmont	Manning	Chaloner	RRHS	RREC
October 5	PreK stagger	K stagger	K stagger	All virtual	All virtual	All virtual
October 12	PreK in-person	K-2 in person, 3-5 virtual	K-2 in person, 3-5 virtual	All virtual	All virtual	All virtual
October 19	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	All virtual	All virtual	All virtual
October 26	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	All virtual	All virtual	All virtual
November 2	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6 in-person, 7-8 virtual	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)
November 9	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6-7 in-person, 8 virtual	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)
November 16	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6-8 in person	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)
November 23	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6-8 in person	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)	All virtual, optional Jacket Time - (9:00-10:00/ 2:00-3:00)
November 30	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6-8 in person	9-12 in-person	9-12 in-person
December 7	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6-8 in person	9-12 in-person	9-12 in-person
December 14	PreK in-person	K-5 in person	K-5 in person	6-8 in person	Exams (EOCs - in-person; others - blended)	Exams (EOCs - in-person; others - blended)
December 21	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
December 28	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday





# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE | Last updated 3/23/23

Safe Entrance Protocols

## STAFF ENTRANCE PROCEDURES

- Schools will designate personnel to monitor staff for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the school building.
- School personnel monitoring staff for COVID-19 must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when conducting COVID-19 monitoring that includes temperature check (must be lower than 100.4) and COVID-19 screening:
  - *Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?*
  - *Since you were last at school, have you had any of these symptoms? (fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough, or new loss of taste or smell)*
  - *Since you were last at school, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?*
- If a staff member presents with any COVID-19 symptom, that staff member should wear a cloth face covering or surgical mask while on campus.
  - If well enough, the staff member should immediately go home.
  - If not well enough, the staff member should be isolated in the designated area and provided support to get home or to medical care.
- If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test or their symptoms, or if an employee does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, the employee can return to school when
  - At least 3 days have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- If a staff member has a negative COVID-19 test, the staff member can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- If screening indicates that a staff member could have COVID-19, implement the following steps:
  - Close off and ventilate facility areas used by the sick person.
  - Wait at least 24 hours, and THEN
  - Clean and disinfect those areas with an EPA-registered product.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

- Notify the local health department and follow their procedures.
  - Participate in remote learning while out.
- Staff are encouraged to wear a cloth or surgical mask while at work and are required to social distance during school activities.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE | Last updated 3/23/23

## STUDENT ENTRANCE PROCEDURES

- Schools will designate separate doors for students to enter based upon if they are bus riders, walkers, or car riders. All students must maintain six feet distance from each other at the bus stop and at school.
- School personnel monitoring students for COVID-19 must wear Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) when conducting COVID-19 monitoring that includes temperature check (must be lower than 100.4) and COVID-19 screening:
  - *Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?*
  - *Since you were last at school, have you had any of these symptoms? (fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough, or new loss of taste or smell)*
  - *Since you were last at school, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?*
- All bus riders will be checked for COVID-19 symptoms prior to boarding the school bus. Bus monitor (or driver without a monitor) will perform a temperature check on and ask screening questions to each student prior to the student getting on the bus. They will write the temperature on the weekly log beside the student's name. Students with temperatures at or above 100.4, who show symptoms, or who do not pass screening will not be permitted to board the bus. If a parent is not there to keep their child, the monitor/driver will radio the school to notify the designated person and the bus driver will wait until the designated person arrives to wait for the parent/guardian or placed in isolation room. At the end of the route, the driver/monitor will notify the school nurse of any students not allowed on the bus and their temperatures.
- All car riders will be checked for COVID-19 symptoms prior to leaving their vehicle. If students are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, the student will remain in the car and then proceed back to their domicile with their parent/guardian.
- All walkers will be checked for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the school building. If students are found to be displaying COVID-19 symptoms, they will not be permitted to enter the school building and the parent/guardian will be contacted. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the student will be held in the isolation room at school until the parent/guardian or designee can pick up student.
- If during the school day a student presents with any COVID-19 symptom, when appropriate that student should wear a cloth face covering or surgical mask and follow these steps:



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**COVID-19 GUIDANCE** | Last updated 3/23/23

- Isolate student in the designated area with supervision by an adult wearing PPE and standing at least 6 feet away.
  - Enact plan to get student home safely; however, the student cannot be transported on a school bus.
- If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test or their symptoms, or if a student does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, the student can return to school when
  - At least 3 days have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- If a student has a negative COVID-19 test, the student can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- If screening indicates that a student could have COVID-19, implement the following steps:
  - Close off and ventilate facility areas used by the sick person.
  - Wait at least 24 hours, and THEN
  - Clean and disinfect those areas with an EPA-registered product.
  - Notify the local health department and follow their procedures.
  - Participate in remote learning while out.
- Students are encouraged to wear a cloth or surgical mask while at school and are required to social distance during school activities.



# STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUIRED HEALTH PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 GUIDANCE | Last updated 3/23/23

## SCHOOL VISITORS

- Schools are required to limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Schools will discontinue activities that involve bringing together large groups of people or activities that do not allow for social distancing, including assemblies, in-person field trips, large groups using playground equipment simultaneously, etc.
- Parents/guardians who need to communicate with school or central office administrators are encouraged to do so by phone or video conferencing. If an in-person meeting is required, it may be done so by appointment only with social distancing. Also, the parent/guardian will be required to wear a cloth or surgical mask.
- Parent/guardians will not be permitted to eat lunch with their students on school property.
- No outside food will be allowed on any campus.

For the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, RRGSD is following all guidelines and requirements from the state of North Carolina and continues to consult with the Halifax County Health Department.