



Royal ISD Safe Return to School Protocols for the 2022-2023 School Year

All staff and students will return to campuses for in-person learning and activities. The safety, security, and well-being of all students, staff and visitors are top priorities for RISD.

Please read the following message for information about safety protocols that will be in place for the upcoming school year. Royal ISD will continue to monitor local, state, and national guidelines as well as CDC guidance, and will communicate any changes as necessary.

Learning Environment and Outdoor Activities

Students will return to in person learning and campus staff will facilitate social distancing as much as possible during the school day to allow for spacing during small group instruction, in hallways, and throughout the school day. Playground structures are open for student use and to encourage play.

Social Distancing

Social distancing is encouraged. Staff and students will social distance in indoor and outdoor settings, to the extent possible.

Campus Visitors

Effective 3/1/2022, visitors are allowed on all RISD campuses.

COVID Vaccine

Currently some immunizations are mandated by state law, yet the COVID-19 vaccine is not one of them at this time. As a result, Royal ISD does not have the authority to require this vaccination or proof of their vaccination.

Daily Screening

Staff and students will not be required to submit a personal health assessment daily. However, health screening is important in supporting safety and physical health when accessing district facilities. In support of this effort, RISD has provided staff and families information on how to screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day before reporting to work or face-to-face instruction. Staff and students will not be required to submit their self-health screening results daily unless they test positive for COVID-19.

By entering a District facility, all visitors will confirm they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last five days.

In case numbers begin to increase, the policy will be reviewed.



Masks

Because face mask mandates are not legally permissible in Texas, face masks continue to be optional for all students and staff. Masks are strongly encouraged while indoors on our campuses. Personal choice about mask wearing is always to be respected by all staff, students, parents and visitors. Face coverings protect not only the wearer, but also significantly reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

COVID-19 Reporting, isolation, and quarantine

Communication will be sent to the school community when there is a reported positive case on one of our campuses. In addition, students and staff identified as being a close contact to a positive case will be notified by the district. Calls and/or emails will be provided to inform close contacts about possible exposure to an individual that reported testing positive for COVID-19. Cases will also be reported on the RISD COVID Dashboard.

Staff who test positive or are symptomatic will self-report to their supervisors and to Human Resources. Parents will report for their child if their student is symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19. The following criteria must be met to return to school/work:

- At least 5 days since symptoms first appeared OR since a positive test result; AND,
- At least 24 hours with no fever (100° F / 37.8° C) without fever-reducing medication; AND,
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested. **A negative COVID-19 test is NOT required.*

Royal ISD must identify and implement responsive actions to address the situation if there are lab-confirmed cases in a school. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students and staff are offered hand sanitizer when entering a bus, building, classroom, and/or office. Frequent handwashing and sanitizing will also be incorporated in the daily schedules.

Cleaning Measures

Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases in schools. Royal ISD aligns protocols with guidance from national, state, and local authorities to ensure students and staff are provided safe and healthy learning and working environments.

- RISD is following TEA, OSHA, and other public health guidelines, and has established protocols to keep our buildings safe and clean.
- When a situation warrants, we may close all or part of a building for disinfection, notifying the occupants of that building in advance as appropriate.



Continuity of Services

Academic: State law requires each district to adopt its own grading policies. This policy must require a classroom teacher to assign a grade that reflects the student's relative mastery of an assignment. Royal ISD grading policies are published annually in the Student Handbook. Progress reports and report cards will be available in the Parent Portal in Skyward. All students are expected to follow state and local testing requirements.

Social/Emotional/Mental and Physical Health: Physical and mental health supports will be available to students and staff as the district recognizes that each student and staff member may have been impacted by COVID-19 differently; therefore, our approach to recovery must be unique to meet individual needs. School counselors and other mental health supports will be available and social- emotional supports will be modeled and practiced with all students and staff to facilitate positive relationship building.

Food services: Royal ISD must comply with child nutrition guidelines. Breakfast is universal for all students. For lunch, students will go through the line and eat in designated areas adhering to social distancing.

Transportation: Buses will be disinfected daily after each route and thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students currently participating in special program services, e.g., special education, 504, Bilingual/ESL, etc., will continue to receive services. Parent meetings may be held using virtual meeting platforms.

Evaluations and Testing – District protocols have been established to evaluate students who have been referred for special programs. Social distancing and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used, as appropriate.