

Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation

Re-Entry Plan for 2021-2022

Approved by RCSC Board on August 30, 2021

RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Rensselaer Central Schools will offer students in-person instruction at 100% capacity, 5 days per week for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan was developed to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment for all staff and students.

Rensselaer Schools will review guidance from the Indiana Department of Health, the Jasper County Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control in making adjustments to this plan. RCSC will evaluate this plan at least monthly.

Parents and guardians play an essential role in helping set a positive tone for the school year by encouraging, informing, and preparing students as they transition back to school. We appreciate the support of our families and welcome feedback to help us improve this re-entry plan. Our goal is for all students to return to school through a process that is safest for everyone involved while minimizing the negative impact of the pandemic. It will take all of us working together and cooperating through many challenges.



School Protocols

Absences and Positive COVID 19 cases

Student and staff absences will be monitored and COVID cases recorded on a daily basis.

Facial Coverings

Facial coverings that cover the nose and mouth are recommended but optional on school grounds. According to federal regulations, facial coverings are required on school buses.

Enhanced Cleaning

High touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized to reduce the potential for infection. This includes desks, doorways, chairs and restrooms.

Shared items will be limited and cleaned after student use.

Hand Washing

Students will be taught proper hand washing techniques and will be expected to wash their hands before eating, entering/exiting the building and when using the restroom.

Water Fountains and Bottle Filling Stations

Water fountains will be on in the building but students and staff are encouraged to use the water bottle filling stations.

Athletics, Extracurricular, Co-Curricular Activities and Events

Attendance may be restricted based on capacity and the ability to meet social distancing requirements.

Volunteers and Guests

Classroom volunteers and guests will be permitted. However, any guests entering the building will be required to wear a mask unless fully vaccinated or six feet of separation can be maintained.

Food Service

Food selection and distribution will be designed to reduce the spread of infection. Tables will be cleaned after each lunch period.

Transportation

All buses will be disinfected daily. High touch areas will be cleaned as needed throughout the day.

Mitigation

Screening Procedures

It is the expectation of parents/guardians to monitor students daily and keep students home if they exhibit the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficult breathing (For students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline.)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever
- Loss of taste or smell

Screening Procedures for Staff

Staff are directed to self-screen for COVID symptoms prior to coming to work to determine if they should stay home.

Vaccination

Vaccination for COVID-19 is recommended but not required. The vaccine is available for individuals 12 and older at no cost.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

- When a positive Covid-19 case is confirmed, contact tracing will be performed.
- Individuals who have been within six feet for a total of 15 minutes of the person identified as positive for Covid 19 will be considered close contacts.
- Close contacts and their parents will be notified.

- **RCSC will follow the requirements of the Indiana Department of Health for quarantine.**

Asymptomatic individuals, unless fully vaccinated or recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, who are identified as **a close contact of a COVID-19 case shall quarantine, including exclusion from schools, preschools, daycare settings, employment, and public places, until:**

- A. 14 days after the date of last exposure;
- B. 10 days after the date of last exposure, following additional precautions for days 11-14; or

C. 7 days after date of last exposure with a negative PCR test result occurring on day 5 or later, following additional precautions for days 8-14.

- If close contacts develop Covid, procedures will be reviewed.
- The RCSC School Board will review the reopening plan at least monthly.

Vaccination and Quarantine

Vaccinated individuals with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 **are not required to quarantine**, if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Fully vaccinated with both doses of 2-dose series and two weeks has elapsed since the second dose.
- Fully vaccinated with a single dose of a single-dose vaccine and two weeks have passed since the dose.
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure,

Exhibiting COVID-like Symptoms

If an individual exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be sent home and presumed to have COVID until such time as a health care provider determines the illness is caused by something else and provides a note for return.

Without a health care provider's note, the individual will need to stay home for 10 days and be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

If a student or staff member is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 but tests negative with an antigen (rapid) test, the individual may be directed to get a PCR test to confirm with the school nurse. A PCR test is considered more reliable than antigen tests in determining if an individual is COVID positive.

Only results from a health care setting will be accepted.

COVID Isolation Areas

Students who exhibit COVID-like symptoms will be sent to isolation areas to await pickup

School Closure

Decisions on whether part or all of a school will need to close will be made in consultation with the Jasper County Health Department. This decision will be influenced by the number of students who have to quarantine and the ability to staff a building in addition to other considerations.

FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

- The amount of fresh air brought into the buildings by the HVAC system has been increased.
- Additional water bottle filling stations have been added.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed throughout the buildings.
- Glass barriers have been installed in the school offices.

MENTAL HEALTH

The routine of school has changed and this change can cause stress for students. It is important to encourage students to communicate their fears and concerns. If you have questions or a child that needs assistance, please contact the child's teacher, counselor, nurse or school office.