

Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation

Re-Entry Plan for 2023-2024

Approved by RCSC Board on **06/20/2023**

Will be implemented on 06/21/2023 with Board to evaluate every six months

RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Rensselaer Central Schools will offer students in-person instruction at 100 percent capacity, 5 days per week for the 2023-2024 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 adjusting this plan. RCSC will evaluate this plan as necessary based on guidance from the Indiana Department of Health.

Parents and guardians play an essential role in helping set a positive tone for the school year by encouraging, informing, and preparing students as we transition into the endemic stage of COVID-19. We appreciate the support of our families and welcome feedback to help us improve this re-entry plan.

As COVID-19 moves from the pandemic stage to endemic stage, new challenges will arise and procedures will be adapted to adjust to these changes.



School Protocols

Absences and Positive COVID-19 cases

Student and staff absences will be monitored. Increases in illness will be reported to the Jasper County Health Department.

Social Distancing

Social Distancing is not required.

Facial Coverings

Facial coverings are optional on school grounds and on school transportation.

Enhanced Cleaning

High touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized to reduce the potential for infection.

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

No restrictions are placed on attendance at events or activities.

Volunteers and Guests

Classroom volunteers and guests are permitted.

Food Service

There are no restrictions on food serving or seating.

Transportation

High touch areas will be cleaned as needed.

Mitigation

Screening Procedures

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

- Fever of 100.4 or Chills
*or school board policy if threshold is lower
- Sore throat
- Cough or Shortness of Breath
*especially new onset, uncontrolled cough
- Diarrhea, Nausea or Vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Headache
*particularly new onset of severe headache, especially with symptoms
- New 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 6 months and older at no cost.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

- Contact tracing will not be performed.
- Individuals exposed to someone with COVID-19 do not have to quarantine if symptoms do not develop and if a positive test is not received.
- An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 should rapidly notify their close contacts.

If an Individual Tests Positive

- Should stay at home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days. (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of the positive test for asymptomatic persons)
- People who are in isolation may return to school on Day 6 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms have improved
- Should wear a mask when around others at home, in public or at school for an additional 5 days (Day 6-10)
- People who are confirmed to have COVID-19 regardless of their vaccination status or symptoms should isolate
- Can resume extracurricular activities on Day 6 if cleared by physician

Exhibiting COVID-like Symptoms

If an individual exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be sent home. Students may return when fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

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.

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.