

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATIONS'

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

AMENDED SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING POLICY

Based on the guidance provided by various Executive Orders of Governor Holcomb and the State of Indiana's Color-Coded Scoring System the Rochester Community School Corporation has created the following plan for the operation of the Rochester Community School System in reopening the education of Rochester students for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. This policy is subject to change and/or amendment by and upon the recommendation of the Fulton County Health Department, the Rochester School Board, the Superintendent, or by Order of the Governor of Indiana. This policy will remain in place and in full force and effect until further action of the Rochester School Board or Superintendent.

I. General Requirements

Based on Governor Eric Holcomb's Executive Orders 21-15 and 21-24 and 21-34 and CDC guidelines:

- a. "Fully Vaccinated" students or staff are individuals who have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last six months or completed the primary series of Johnson and Johnson within the last two months or have been boosted.
- b. "Unvaccinated" students and staff means any person who is not Fully Vaccinated.
- c. All individuals in the Hoosier state, whether vaccinated or not, are strongly encouraged to obtain a COVID-19 test if they become symptomatic.
- d. All individuals who have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to get tested or self-quarantine.
- e. All individuals, whether fully vaccinated or unvaccinated, who test positive for COVID-19, shall self-quarantine or self-isolate for the time period set by the CDC.
- f. Specific guidelines for K-12 educational institutions are outlined below.

II. Educational Operations

- a. Rochester Community School Corporation will open for the fall semester on August 3, 2021 for students, with organizational day for teachers on August 2, 2021, pursuant to the school calendar. All classes will be in session on August 3, 2021, pursuant to student schedules.

- b. Masks or face shields are optional and will be readily available for any student or staff upon request. KN95 masks will be provided for those who request one.
- c. Rochester Schools will provide learning opportunities for students based on IEPs or a doctor's diagnosis, (including but not limited to if the student is medically fragile) provided to the school, using school provided one-to-one electronic devices.
- d. Students who are ill with Coronavirus or have a COVID-19 diagnosis, or who are ordered into quarantine by a physician or by the County Health Department, shall have excused absences and follow the educational platform provided by their school building.

III. Social Distancing

- a. Individuals within the state of Indiana should engage in social distancing with all other individuals. The phrase "social distancing" means maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals.
- b. It shall be the policy of Rochester Schools to provide as much physical distancing as is possible in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and at other school facilities. The recommended 6 feet is not possible in most instances.

IV. Bus Transportation

- a. All students or children regardless of age or grade, all faculty, all staff, all vendors, all contractors, all volunteers, and all visitors shall have the option to wear masks while on public transportation, including Rochester Community School buses and school owned vehicles.
- b. Buses shall be sanitized daily after use.

V. Screening

- a. Each student/parent or staff member shall be personally responsible to screen their own physical condition daily by taking their temperature before school starts. Those with a temperature that equals or exceeds 100.4 degrees shall be kept at home and their absence properly reported to the school building.
- b. If a student or staff member attends school and thereafter appears to be showing signs of illness, by elevated temperature, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, they should report to the school nurse who may contact a parent or guardian to pick up the student or send the staff person home,

responsibly. Once a student or employee is removed from the school environment, they will be permitted to return if they satisfy the guidelines in ¶ IX.

VI. Medical Inquiries

The school will take every opportunity to inquire concerning COVID-19 symptoms for employees and students, including:

- c. If a parent tells the school that a student is ill, the school will ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- d. If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the school will inquire whether the employee is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- e. If a person is obviously ill, the school may make inquiries about the symptoms exhibited, and may exclude the person from school property, only to return in accordance with ¶ IX.

VII. School Response to Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- a. After it is confirmed that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, the following steps shall be taken:
 - i. Implementation of sanitization efforts in areas where the infected person was engaged in the educational program; and
- b. The superintendent and/or administration may shut down buildings, buses, classrooms, or other facilities for such time as is appropriate for the protection of the community.
- c. Rochester Community School Corporation will notify the Fulton County Health Department if absenteeism rate for COVID-like illness reaches above 10% for further guidance.

VIII. Return after Exhibiting Symptoms

Persons who have been exhibiting signs/symptoms of Covid-19 may return to school after.:

- a. If not tested for COVID-19 or tested negative they may return if:
 - i. They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever; and
 - ii. Their other symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath are resolving
- b. If tested for COVID-19 and positive, they may return to school if:

- i. 5 full days have passed since symptoms started (or if asymptomatic, from test date)
- ii. They have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and symptoms are resolving.
- iii. They shall to wear a surgical mask at school for an additional 5 days.

IX. Sanitation Issues

- a. **Water Fountains:** All water fountains shall be disabled at the drinking spigot. Bottle filling water fountains have been installed in buildings, and more will be installed as available. Students needing hydrations shall be responsible to provide their own water bottle, which shall not be shared with other persons. Restrictions on the presence of water bottles in classrooms are lifted.
- b. **Restroom Use:**
Riddle and Columbia schools shall handle restroom usage by classroom visits. No more than one class shall be released for restroom use at a time.
- c. **Hand Washing or Sanitizing:** Hand sanitizers shall be available at all entry doors, at the cafeteria, and throughout the building. All persons should use hand sanitizers at the following times:
 - i. Upon entering the building in the morning;
 - ii. Before eating;
 - iii. After using a restroom;
 - iv. After blowing the nose, coughing or sneezing; and
 - v. After using shared equipment

The school will provide sanitizers for these purposes

X. High Risk Facilities

Several classrooms, due to the nature of instruction, are considered high risk facilities. If a student is in such a classroom, special protections and procedures will be provided to assure adequate airflow, as required for classroom participation.

Rochester Comm. School Corp.
2021-2022
Amended Safe School Reopening Policy

Adopted this 28 day of **February, 2022**, by a vote of _____ aye, _____
nay.

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD

ATTEST:

Board Secretary