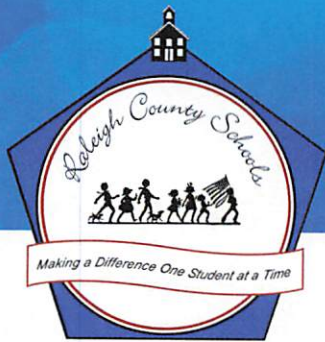


Updated COVID-19 Protocols



February 2022

Updated COVID-19 and Masking Guidance – February 22, 2022

Mask Usage

Effective 2/23/2022, Raleigh County Schools will be moving its mask guidance from required to **recommended**. This means that mask usage in RCS buildings and on the bus will be optional for students and staff. This decision is being made as the Raleigh County positive case numbers are decreasing, after the spike in cases during and after the winter holidays.

- We will still have masks available to students and staff
- We will still participate in weekly reporting of positive cases so that parents and staff know conditions in their schools
- We will continue to communicate as often as needed with the Beckley/Raleigh County Health Department about special cases and any concerning trends in classrooms or schools
- We will continue to recommend testing at our School Based Health Centers, local physician/provider offices and pharmacies
- We will continue to monitor positive cases and mask guidance through the coming weeks and months

» With this transition, it is more important than ever before for students and staff to monitor symptoms daily and do not come to work or school if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

When student or staff tests positive for COVID-19

» Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of masking or vaccination status, shall stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others based upon a positive home, rapid or PCR test.

» Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic.

» Students and staff shall return to school if they:

- Stayed home and isolated for at least 5 full days **AND**
- Fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications) **AND**

- Symptoms are improving **AND**
 - Wear a well-fitted mask inside the school for days 6-10. If a mask is unable to be worn, they shall continue to isolate and remain at home for 10 days.
- » Pre-K students, who test positive, shall be required to isolate for the full 10 days.
- » Special needs students, who test positive, who are unable to wear a well-fitted mask throughout the school day shall be required to isolate for the full 10 days.
- » Individuals who were severely ill or immunocompromised should stay home and isolate for 10 days
- » Upon return to school, the parent/guardian shall submit written documentation supporting the positive isolation. The written documentation may be one of the following: healthcare provider excuse, copy of a positive test result from a healthcare provider, or a written parent/guardian note.

» ***Extracurricular activities***

» Youth/student shall not be allowed to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities while in isolation for a positive COVID-19 test result and while potentially infectious. Raleigh County Schools will allow the youth to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities during days 6 - 10 if they obtain a negative antigen test on day 5 or later from a healthcare provider. The test result shall be submitted to the school principal prior to participation for days 6-10. If a test result is not submitted, the athlete may return to play on day 11.

When student or staff is exposed to COVID-19 in a school or household exposure outside of school

- » Raleigh County Schools has discontinued contact tracing for exposures however, layered prevention strategies remain in place.
- Close contacts regardless of vaccination status may continue in-person learning if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Parents and guardians should be notified when a positive case is reported in the classroom/school so parents can monitor their child for signs and symptoms.

- Household exposures to a positive case are asked to observe the [CDC quarantine guidelines](#). Any non-household exposures to a positive case should monitor for symptoms and stay out if any are present.

» A parent/guardian may quarantine his/her child (student) due to exposure to a positive individual for up to 5 days from date of exposure.

» Upon return to school, the parent/guardian shall submit written documentation supporting the quarantine. The written documentation may be one of the following: healthcare provider excuse, copy of a positive test result from a healthcare provider, or a written parent/guardian note.

Case Reporting and Considerations for School Closure

» Raleigh County Schools began reporting in aggregate the number of positive staff and students for the prior week (Thursday to Thursday) to an online portal. This will allow for a more robust tracking of COVID-19 cases and will measure the true burden COVID-19 has on our school system by measuring the percent positivity. RCS is directly reporting positive cases to the new WVDHHR survey, which appears here on Fridays -

<https://wvde.us/covid19/school-covid-dashboard/>

» Schools may consider closing for a five-day period to slow transmission, in consultation with the local health department, based on one of the thresholds:

- School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out with COVID.
- School COVID-19 percent positivity exceeds 20% on the weekly report. Five-day closures do require all extra-curricular events to be cancelled/postponed. However, schools needing to close for a day or two due to staffing, may conduct extra-curricular events based on their county-level policies.

» As a reminder, information provided by the WVDHHR on COVID-19 vaccine is available at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx> or contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-833-734-0964 with questions.