

Richmond Community Schools



Return to In-Person Learning 2021-2022 School Year

Updated 8-9-2021

Revised August 9, 2021

Beginning August 9, 2021, Masks will be required indoors for all RCS students, staff, and visitors.

Updated CDC guidance recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

Richmond Community Schools Return to In-Person Instruction

This plan is designed to meet criteria for the Return to In-Person Instruction Plan, as required by the US Department of Education as a part of ESSER III funding.

This plan has been guided by resources from public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Wayne County Health Department, the Indiana Department of Education, and the Governor's Office. **Please note this plan is subject to change according to the guidance and recommendations by the County and State Health Department, Department of Education and the Governor's Office.**

RCS Return to In-Person Learning 2021-2022

- Return to in-person learning five days a week
- Return to full capacity as in a normal school year
- Return to early dismissal on Tuesdays
- Return to original instructional minutes (length of day)
- Return to extracurricular activities
- Return to in-person events_____

Richmond Community Schools will not be offering a virtual instruction option. Please note that Richmond High School will continue to offer RGA (Richmond Graduation Academy)._____

Richmond Community Schools will continue to limit visitors to reduce interruptions to the instructional day.

Preventative Steps to Reduce Transmission Risk

Preventative measures include, but are not limited to:

- CDC does not currently recommend schools conduct symptom screening for all students in grades K-12 on a routine (e.g., daily) basis.
- Parents, caregivers, or guardians (“caregivers”) should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening.
- Frequent handwashing is encouraged.
- Students who are sick should not attend school.

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have a wide range of reported symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Symptoms can include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Social Distancing

We will practice social distancing and make facility modifications when possible. Due to the size of our student body and our facilities it will not be possible at all times. We encourage students at the secondary level to not congregate in the hallways, but instead to use passing periods to wash their hands, use the restroom, fill their water bottle with water, and go to class.

Masks

Beginning August 9, 2021, Masks will be required indoors for all RCS students, staff, and visitors. Masks are also required on public transportation, which includes school buses.

Face masks must be worn properly. For more information, please refer to the Mask Up 101 flyer posted in the COVID-19 information section on the RCS website.

Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use.
- Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

Handwashing

To prevent the spread of germs, you should wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands.

Unvaccinated Staff and Students

Masks are recommended indoors (except when eating); social distance at least 3 feet if all students are facing forward in the classroom; social distance at least 6 feet in all other areas of the school; and quarantine if identified as having had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Please note COVID quarantine days ended at the end of the 2020-2021 school year and will not continue for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students required by RCS and/or the Department of Health to quarantine will be considered an excused absence.

Vaccinated Staff and Students

No quarantine needed if identified as a close contact, if they remain asymptomatic, and proof of vaccination can be verified.

Vaccine Clinic and Covid Testing Info

The COVID vaccine is not required but is available to staff and students ages 12 and older. There are vaccine locations and clinics available in Richmond. To schedule an appointment please visit <https://vaccine.coronavirus.in.gov/en-US/> or call 211 (866-211-9966). Walk-in vaccination clinics, which included COVID and Back-to-School vaccines, are listed below:

Date	Start Time	End Time	Location/Event Name	Address	City	Vaccines Offered
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28-Jul	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	Boys and Girls Club	855 N 12th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
4-Aug	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
7-Aug	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	Centerville Middle School	509 Willow Grove Rd	Centerville	COVID & Back-to-School
7-Aug	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	Back to School Bash	10th Street Park	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
8-Aug	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	Luz del Mundo (Church)	335 S 7th Street	Richmond	COVID
10-Aug	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	Starr Elementary School	301 N 19th St	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
10-Aug	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Dennis Middle School	222 NW 7th St	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
11-Aug	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
18-Aug	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
22-Aug	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	El Fogon	1520 North A Street	Richmond	COVID
25-Aug	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
1-Sep	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
4-Sep	4:00 PM	9:00 PM	International Fest	Jack Elstro Park	Richmond	COVID
8-Sep	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
12-Sep	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	El Fogon	1520 North A Street	Richmond	COVID
15-Sep	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
22-Sep	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School

29-Sep	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	Wayne County Health Department	100 South 5th Street	Richmond	COVID & Back-to-School
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COVID testing is available in Richmond. Please visit the Wayne County Health Department website to schedule a test. <https://scheduling.coronavirus.in.gov/Invitation> or call Reid Central Scheduling at (765) 983-3358.

Track and Isolate Positive Cases

Individuals should stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result.

Who Is a Close Contact?

If all students are masked and facing forward in the classroom, only individuals within 3 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. If all students are not masked and facing forward in the classroom, all individuals within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Quarantine

- ***Vaccinated*** close contacts do not have to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms and isolate if symptoms develop.
- ***Unvaccinated*** individuals who are identified as a close contact must quarantine.
 - ***Asymptomatic close contacts*** may return on day 8 (with specific negative testing and precautions), day 11 (with precautions), or day 15 (without testing or precautions).

Report

Schools should report all positive cases and close contacts via the Indiana Department of Health K-12 Gateway portal.

Special Populations

We will continue to provide all appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities as outlined in their IEP, 504, ILP. Should anyone have questions regarding special accommodations, please contact the building administrator.

Building Cleaning Enhancements

RCS will be disinfecting more often in common areas such as hallways, cafeterias, bathrooms, playgrounds and buses, as well as high-touch surfaces like door handles and desks.

We will continue to meet the Indiana State Department of Health's recommended environmental steps to reduce indoor COVID transmission through humidity, air-conditioning, air filters, etc.

The procedures below will be followed in all buildings:

- High-touch areas and common spaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- High-traffic areas will be vacuumed using machines with HEPA filters installed.
- Locations for hand sanitizing stations will be identified and installed.
- Bottle-filling stations will be used in place of traditional water fountains wherever available. Guidance from the CDC and Indiana Department of Education indicate that shared water fountains should not be used to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Students will have access to water throughout the day.
- Disinfecting misters will be used in schools. The misters allow large areas and multiple surfaces to be disinfected quickly and safely. The misters allow our staff to move through large sections of buildings efficiently while still completely disinfecting areas.
- Additional training and education will be provided to all custodial staff on expectations and CDC guidelines for proper sanitizing of schools.
- Plexiglass sneeze guards will be installed in high-visitor areas.
- Additional supplies, including hand sanitizer and disinfectant, will be provided to each classroom across the district. Staff will be asked to periodically clean high-touch surfaces in their classrooms.
- Frequent hand washing is essential.

Laptop Disinfecting

We encourage students to not share their laptop and to clean it regularly. Cleaning tips for student devices include:

- Ensure the device is turned off and unplug all cables.
- Clean the laptop screen using a small amount of alcohol on a microfiber cloth.
- Do not use disinfecting liquids directly on the screen, including but not limited to Clorox or alcohol wipes.

- Clean the keyboard, including laptop keyboard, using alcohol on a cotton ball.
- Do not use window cleaners, household cleaners, or abrasives to clean technology.

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