



**COVID-19
Parent/Employee
Information
2021-2022**

Riverview Gardens Families,

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our most important concern. Below you will find the district's responsive steps for adhering to the health and safety considerations outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and the Missouri Health Department. It should be noted that all COVID-19 health strategies that the district will deploy are intended to mitigate, not eliminate risk. No single action, or set of actions, will completely eliminate the risk of the COVID-19 transmission, but the implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.

Parents, you are the first line of defense!!! We ask that you adhere to the following procedures in order to keep everyone safe and to keep our scholars within the learning environment:

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

- ***Please do DAILY health checks on your students to ensure that each student is free of COVID-19 symptoms BEFORE sending them to school.***

SYMPTOMS REQUIRING ABSENCE

- ***Students MUST remain home if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID:***
 - ***COVID-19 Symptoms include:*** fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, congestion, runny nose, nausea/vomiting, new loss of taste of or smell, and/or diarrhea.
 - Follow-up with a medical provider BEFORE returning to school, after experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, is strongly encouraged.
 - If experiencing symptoms, parents/guardians are encouraged to call their medical provider, the Missouri COVID hotline at 1-877-435-8411 or the St. Louis County Health Department at 314-615-9700
 - Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
 - Students with a fever will be required to stay home for at least 3 days or until fever free **WITHOUT** the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - Chills and/or generalized body aches
 - Students who live/visited with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who are exhibiting symptoms, should remain home.
- For additional information, please visit the Center for Disease Control at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

REPORTING ILLNESS

When reporting illness absences, be sure to report if your child:

- Is a close contact of someone with a positive COVID-19 test.
- Has signs of COVID-19.
- Has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Has been diagnosed with influenza (respiratory flu).

RETURNING TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES AFTER A POSITIVE COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS

- For students diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, a return to school is permissible when:
 - At least 10 days have passed from symptom onset;
 - At least 3 days have passed with no fever;
 - **AND** the student has shown improving symptoms.

SIBLINGS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

- **EVERY** student living at the same address should stay home if they:
 - Live with someone (or has been in close contact with someone) **diagnosed** with COVID-19 or
 - Live with someone who is **exhibiting** symptoms of COVID-19.
- It is very IMPORTANT that you remain at home for 10 days after exposure to or after being diagnosed with COVID.
- If you begin displaying symptoms while home (quarantine), you will need to remain home an **ADDITIONAL 10 days** from the date that symptoms were noticed.

SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID PROCEDURE

When a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following will occur:

- **The nurse will be contacted and the student will report to our Potential COVID Room (PCR) within the school building.**
- **If the nurse determines the student is demonstrating symptoms associated with COVID-19, parents will be contacted.**
- **Parents will be required to pick up their student within 1 hour after being notified.**
- ***Students will be required to wear face coverings and remain in the PCR until they are picked up by a parent/guardian or designee. This is being done with an abundance of caution to keep everyone safe, and as suggested by Missouri's Department of Secondary Education (DESE).***
 - ***PCRs were developed as suggested by DESE.***

- *PCRs were built with shower curtain-type material and are developed to prevent cross infection of students waiting to be picked up, while at the same time making it possible to visually monitor students.*
- *Students who share the SAME address with a student who demonstrates COVID symptoms will be required to quarantine for 10 days.*
- It is recommended that a student suspected of COVID be tested. However, if not tested, the student(s) **MUST** remain home for 10 days before returning to school.
- Students who test positive will:
 - Remain home for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms, progress 3 days with no fever (without fever reducing medication) **AND** display improved symptoms.
 - If symptoms develop after the student is placed in quarantine, the student **MUST** remain home for **10 additional days** after the onset of symptoms.
- **All students seated around the student who displayed symptoms or had a confirmed case of COVID, will be sent home for 10 days.**

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

The decision to implement face coverings includes the following **benefits for both children and adults within RGSD:**

- Wearing face coverings;
 - Limit the spread of illness.
 - Allow us to keep our students at school and assist us in meeting the goal of providing in-person instruction.
- Wearing of face coverings is consistent with guidance from the CDC, St. Louis County and the Missouri Department of Health.
- Wearing a face covering at school shows care for others and helps protect classmates and teachers.
- Wearing face coverings offers an added layer of protection when young students, who are developmentally drawn to each other, do not maintain social distancing recommendations.
- Face coverings breaks will be provided by supervising adults when the opportunity exists, such as outside, during lunch or when children can be appropriately distanced.
- RGSD will work with our students to educate them on the benefits and proper wearing of masks, handwashing, and social distancing.

MASK/FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS:

- ***Students will be required to wear a face covering on the school bus and throughout the school day.***
 - ***Exceptions: Lunch, Recess, PE Classes***
- The district will provide two washable face coverings to each student.
- Please ensure that your student wears a face covering to school on a daily basis.
- Students who arrive at school without a face covering will be provided one.
- If a student refuses to wear a face covering (and they have not indicated a medical condition or have a documented medical exemption preventing them from wearing a face covering), they will be sent home and will be allowed to return only upon agreeing to wear the face covering.
- Student who continues to violate the face covering policy will be placed on virtual instruction.



HAND HYGIENE

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Each classroom has been equipped with hand sanitizing stations.
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering AND exiting their classrooms.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after lunch.
- It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; following restroom use; before and after eating; before and after routine care for another person, such as a child; after contact with a person who is sick; upon return from the playground or physical education.

How to Wash Your Hands Correctly

BE SURE TO WASH YOUR HANDS FOR 20 SECONDS.



PHYSICAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING

Limiting close face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In RGSD schools, all students and staff members will social distance to the extent possible.

- Students must practice social distancing of 6 feet. It is recognized that this cannot be accomplished at all times, and distancing for at least 3 feet has been shown to reduce infections.
- Floor and wall social distancing decals will be installed.
- Traffic flow restriction signage will be placed in hallways.
- Tables/chairs will be socially distanced.
- Non-hard surfaced furniture will be removed.
- Students will remain with their classmates to reduce mixing student population as much as possible.
- Students should refrain from all forms of physical contact.

CLASSROOMS

- PreK-5th Classrooms
 - Students will remain with the same classroom group throughout the day as much as possible.
 - Educators will:
 - Maximize social distancing within classroom spaces (as much as possible) & provide assigned seating for students.
 - Take precautionary sanitation measures when utilizing small group instructional spaces (e.g. guided reading table, classroom library).

- Schedule/coordinate restroom and handwashing breaks throughout the day.
- Schedule/coordinate recess to minimize mixing student groups.
- Refrain from sharing school supplies between students.
- Require students to wear face coverings throughout the school day (exceptions are lunch, PE, recess).

VISITORS

- Access into school building will be restricted to authorized personnel only.
- Visitors to any building must;
 - Wear an appropriate and approved face covering.
 - Complete a health screening.
 - Have their temperature taken.
 - Use hand sanitizer.
- If the visitor is dropping off an item for a student, the item will be left in the office for delivery/pickup by the student.
- If the visitor is picking up a student for any reason, the student will be sent/brought to the main office.
- Visitors will remain in the main office or other designated area for the duration of the visit and will not have general access to the building in order to maintain physical/social distancing.
- If visitors are exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19, please **DO NOT** attempt to access any RGSD buildings.