



Rivendell Interstate School District
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Rivendell COVID Safety Precautions

August 24, 2021

As we start the new school year, our focus is to keep our school community **healthy** and our schools **operational**. We learned a lot from last year and have been meeting regularly with our respective health departments, representatives from the American Academy of Pediatricians and other local health care professionals to help determine what COVID precautions to establish. While it is not necessary to return to all the same procedures as last year, some are still currently needed. COVID safety at Rivendell will include the following as we start the new school year and will be reevaluated monthly or as new information becomes available:

Universal masking indoors: All students and employees (as well as guests, parents, and community members) need to wear a mask any time they are inside a school building. As recommended by the Vermont Agency of Education we will reevaluate the need for masking at the Academy on September 10th.

Stay home when sick: Please assess at home. Do you have a temperature above 100° or any other COVID symptoms? If so, stay home from school, carefully monitor, and consider the need for COVID testing.

Hand hygiene is still important! We'll have hand sanitizer throughout the buildings and encourage frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.

Distancing: While we don't have a 6-foot distancing requirement this year, we need to continue to be conscientious about personal space. In classrooms, outside, and in common spaces, please give others room to move and breathe freely.

Masking on buses: There is a federal mandate to mask on public transportation which includes school buses. All riders will be required to wear a mask.

Field trips: We will assess the logistics and safety concerns of school-day field trips on a case-by-case basis. We are not allowing overnight trips this year.

Large indoor gatherings: Indoor assemblies will not occur at this time unless students can be properly spaced.

Assigned seating: Students may have designated seats in classes and buses for the purpose of contact tracing.

Contact Tracing: We will continue to utilize the guidance of the Vermont State Health Department, to conduct contact tracing in our schools. Please note that there may be other factors such as symptoms, vaccination status, etc. that may contribute to the guidance.

Quarantine/Testing: COVID testing required for return to school must be PCR COVID tests. Antigen tests will not be accepted. Anyone planning on entering the school building must be free of any of the following symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (100.4 °F or higher) (We include a temp of 100.0 F or higher for school purposes.)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Severe Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If any of these symptoms are present, please provide proof of a negative PCR test to the school nurse to return to school. It is important to touch base with the school nurse regarding some of these symptoms, regardless of current COVID precautions, for guidance to return to school.

At the present time there are no restrictions on gatherings or domestic travel. Please refer to the CDC guidance regarding details for international travel.

If you have specific questions related to COVID-19, please contact one of our COVID safety coordinators:

ACADEMY COVID COORDINATOR

Creigh Moffat: cmoffat@rivendellschool.org

ELEMENTARY COVID COORDINATOR

Jessica Gould: jgould@rivendellschool.org

Thank You,

Barrett Williams
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