

Highlights

We Are Rappahannock!

Welcome Back Bulletin- Aug. 27, 2021



We are so excited to welcome our students back for in-person learning. Over the past few days, we have implemented enhanced safety mitigation procedures.

At RCES, we have arranged our classrooms in **pods**, which will reduce the number of students who may have to quarantine. Additionally, we have **adjusted our exploratory schedule** so that during a 6-day rotation students will only have two exploratory classes rather than six. Also, we have returned to eating **breakfast and lunches in classrooms**. To ensure safety on the playgrounds, grade levels will not mix cohorts. Like last year, we have **segmented the playground** into 4 sections with cones so that each cohort group has their own space.

Pictured right: RCES student desks were placed in small groups called pods to reduce the number of students that may need to be quarantined. Desks are separated with desk shields.

Pictured below: RCHS has revamped their physical education classes to further reduce the chances of student quarantine.



At RCHS, desks have been strategically placed, distanced, and assigned to students. Lunch will now be held in the classrooms. Additionally, PE classes will follow enhanced, safety protocols:

- *Students will wear masks any time they are not being active.
- *Students will enter the locker rooms to dress while maintaining a healthy distance and will not congregate in the locker room. They will enter to get dressed and exit when done doing so.
- *Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the gym.
- *Once students enter the gym they will walk laps while staying distant from one another until the rest of the students arrive to the gym.
- *Students will not be required to wear masks while completing exercises/workouts, but will maintain a healthy distance between one another.

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Important Reminder for Families

Please help us reduce the chances of quarantines by keeping your child at home if you think they may have been exposed to the virus or if they have any symptoms, including mild symptoms:

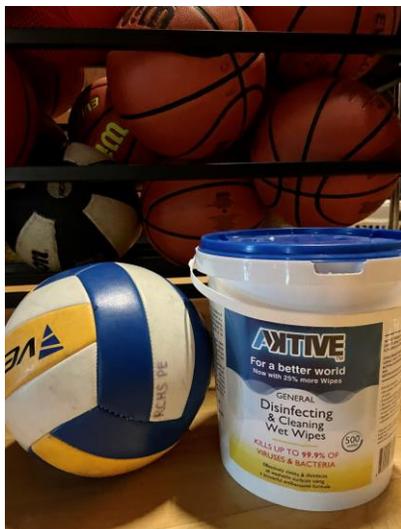
- *Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- *Sore throat
- *Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- *Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from baseline breathing)
- *Diarrhea or vomiting
- *New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

If you have any questions or need more guidance regarding a possible exposure, please call your child's school nurse. They are here to assist you while keeping our students and staff safe.

RCES- Robyn Murray 540-227-0200 ext. 3012

RCHS- Courtney Atkins 540-227-0745 ext. 3471

If your student tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the SCHOOL NURSE ASAP so that we may begin contact tracing in order to reduce the possible spread.



Universal Masking

RCPS is currently under a universal masking policy.

- All students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask for in-person learning.
- Exempted students must provide medical documentation for an alternative accommodation or wear a mask for at least the next 30 days. After 30 days, case rates will be reexamined to see if the exemptions for in-person learning can be put back in to place (case rates drop for at least 2 consecutive weeks under 1% threshold).
- Exempted students who are not able to provide documentation are approved to continue on a distance-learning schedule until case rates are consistently steady under the threshold.

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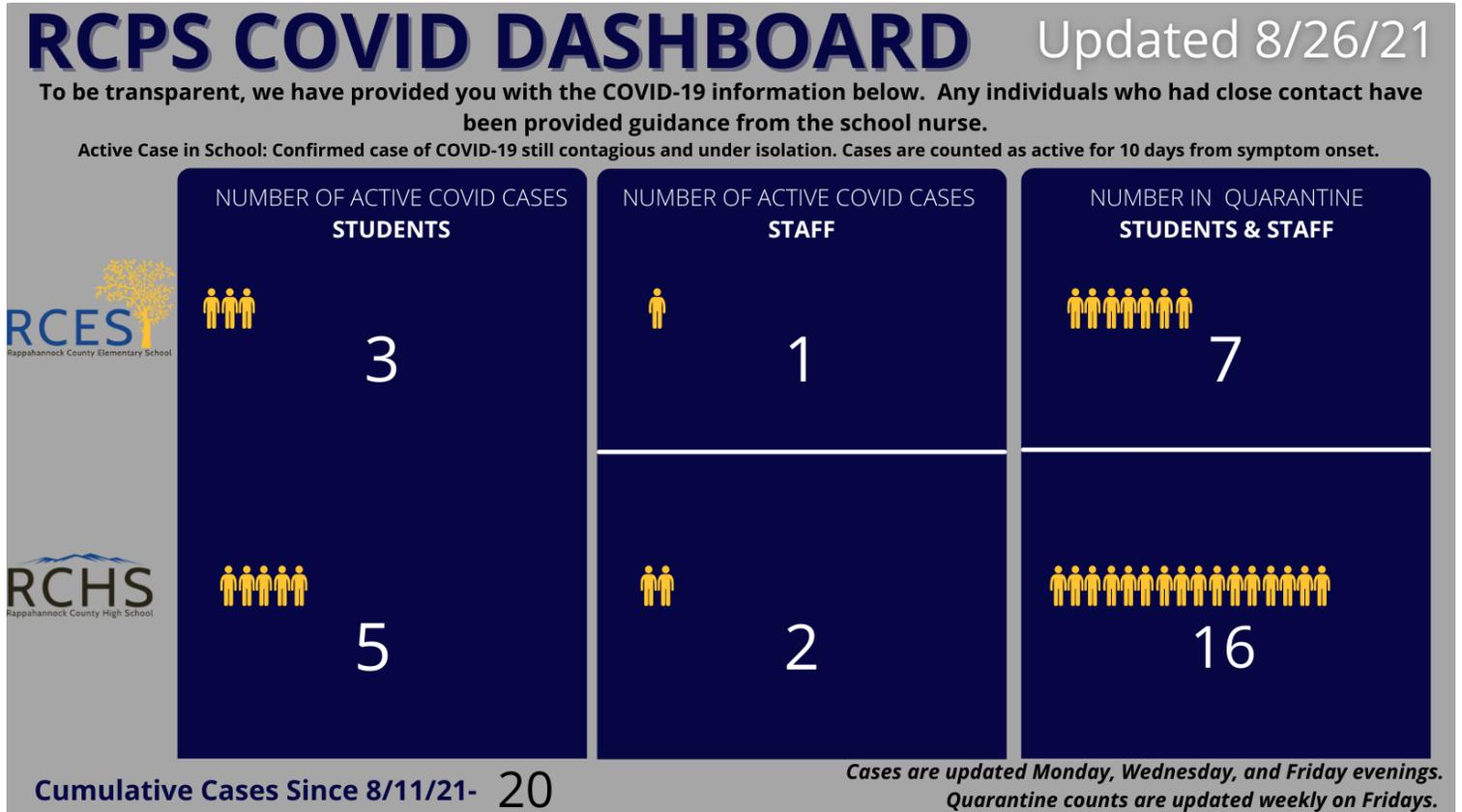
- *When playing games, balls and equipment will be washed or sanitized between usage.
- *Students will wash or sanitize their hands when completing games or activities.
- *Students will enter the locker rooms to get dressed and exit as soon as they are done unless they are showering. Showers have individual stalls and not community showers.
- *Once students are done getting dressed they will report to the hallway or gym where they will wear masks and remain a healthy distance between one another until the bell rings.
- *While in the weight room, students will be divided into groups of 3-4 students while working out keeping a healthy distance from other groups.

RCPS COVID Dashboard

Starting on Monday, August 30th, we will be launching our new COVID Dashboard, which will reflect complete, current, and accurate numbers to serve as a baseline following our short-term closure. This new dashboard, will be updated on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays to show active cases. Quarantine data will be updated on Fridays.

Once launched on Monday morning, this dashboard will be on our School Reopening Information page on our division website. A link will be on our homepage. www.rappahannockschools.us.

Below is an EXAMPLE of what the new dashboard will look like. NUMBERS SHOWN ON THIS **EXAMPLE ARE NOT ACTUAL DATA**, BUT PURELY A REPRESENTATION OF HOW THE DASHBOARD WILL READ.



EXAMPLE- NOT ACTUAL DATA

The dashboard will be released on Monday morning. The first update will occur on Wednesday evening.



Close Contacts in a K-12 Setting

WHEN IS A QUARANTINE NEEDED?

NO QUARANTINE IF...



Both kids are masked and greater than 3 feet apart.



Fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine following an exposure as long as they have no symptoms.

They should still continue to mask in indoor settings.

QUARANTINE IF...



Within 3 feet for more than 15 minutes. Regardless of masks.



One kid is unmasked. Within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.

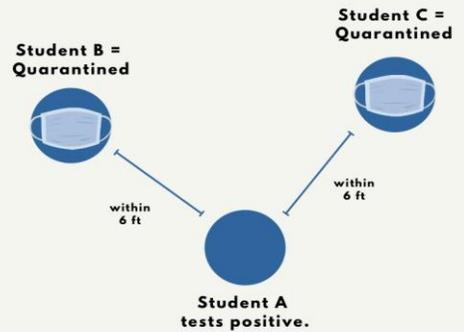


Both kids are unmasked. Within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.

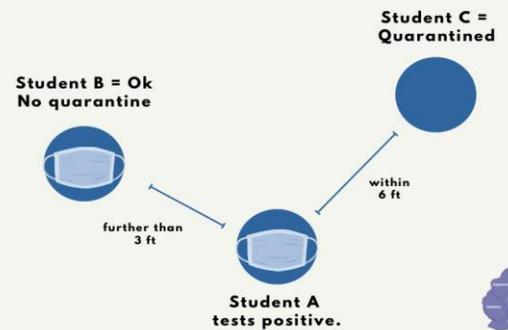
New RCPS Nurses Corner FB Page- Coming Soon

Once launched, follow our RCPS School Nurses page on Facebook for health related tips and important information. Our nurses have provided two helpful infographics here to help parents better understand scenarios that trigger quarantines.

EXAMPLE 1: POSITIVE CASE IS UNMASKED



EXAMPLE 2: POSITIVE CASE IS MASKED



RCPS is hosting a VDH Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinic. Save the date!

VDH Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinic

Location

Rappahannock County Elementary School

Date

September 16, 2021

Time

4:00 - 7:00 pm- Open to the public

3:30 pm (Open for RCPS staff)

Vaccine Clinic



If you or your student is feeling anxious or depressed, we are here to help! Call or text our **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT HOTLINE: 540-683-0437**