

**2021-2022 ROAD FORWARD HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN**  
**BOROUGH OF RUMSON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Approved by the Rumson Board of Education 12/23/22*

**Revisions 2/28/22**

*\*revisions are prompted by updates in NJDOH, NJDOE, CDC, HMMH guidance*



**General Information**

- This plan provides for a school schedule that is:
  - Full-day
  - Full-time
  - In-person
  - Inclusive of access to the full service of programs
- This plan provides for layered prevention strategies that are based on levels of community transmission. This data is acquired from the following sources:
  - [NJ DOH Weekly COVID-19 Activity Report](#)
  - [Monmouth County Additional COVID-19 Case Report](#)
  - [COVID-19 Occurrences for the Borough of Rumson School District](#)
- Based on changes in guidance, orders and local data, the protocols within this plan are subject to change.
- This plan takes into account additional information provided by our medical consultant, Hackensack Meridian Health, through the “Keeping America Safe Assist Program”.



## **1. GENERAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **1.1 Vaccines -**

- The Rumson School District (RSD) will provide information to the school community on availability and eligibility of vaccinations via the COVID-19 Tab of the district website: [www.rumsonschools.org](http://www.rumsonschools.org) . This is being provided for those interested.
- The RSD asks that parents notify the district when a student becomes fully vaccinated and then when a student is up to date with all additional recommended boosters.
  - Fully vaccinated = two weeks past your original vaccinations
  - Up-to-Date = two weeks past your original vaccinations as well having the appropriate recommended booster if eligible
  - There will be a check-box in the Genesis Parent Portal to provide this information to the district.
  - Additionally, when checking the box proof of vaccination must be uploaded to the Genesis Student Information System.
  - For 12 year olds and older, to be considered up to date with the COVID vaccination an individual must have the appropriate booster shot if/when eligible.
    - 12 -18 year olds with Pfizer must be boosted at month 5 from the original series.
    - 18 years and older with Pfizer/Moderna must be boosted at month 5 from the original series.
    - 18 years and older with J & J must be boosted at month 2 from original shot
    - The time period between the original series and the booster month eligibility is considered fully vaccinated.
    - 5-11 year olds are not eligible for booster and are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completion of the original series.
- As per Executive Order 253, RSD Staff will be required to be vaccinated by October 18th. Those not being vaccinated will be required to go for weekly COVID testing.
  - This includes all employees, contracted services, contractors, and providers of the school district.

### **1.2 Communication -**

- The RSD will track COVID-19 transmission at regional, county, borough, and district level in order to inform the protocols within this document.
  - [NJ DOH Weekly COVID-19 Activity Report](#)
  - [Monmouth County Additional COVID-19 Case Report](#)
  - [COVID-19 Occurrences for the Borough of Rumson School District](#)
- The RSD will remain in communication with the Monmouth County Health Commission # 1, NJ Department of Health, NJ Department of Education, and

Hackensack Meridian Health to both inform and be informed for decision-making purposes.

- The RSD will provide, at minimum, bi-weekly updates to the school community on this plan and will alert the school community to instances of COVID-19 that impact our schools.
- The RSD will update its COVID Tracking Chart for district cases on a daily basis beginning January 3rd.
- The RSD will provide opportunities for the school community to attend scheduled Parent Academy sessions via Zoom regarding aspects of and updates to this plan.

### **1.3 Masks -**

- Due to the release of schools from requiring masks in school for students and staff, the Rumson School District will be a mask-optional learning environment effective Monday, March 7, 2022.
  - A mask-optional learning environment would mean that students and staff who wish to remain mask-free are welcome to do so; students and staff who would prefer to wear a mask are also welcome to do so.
- The following are the RSD Board of Education mask-optional learning environment protocols:

#### **Monitoring of the Mask-Optional Learning Environment**

The mask-optional learning environment will remain in place going forward upon review of district and local community data. In an effort to ensure in-person instruction can continue, on-going review of data that establishes patterns of COVID positivity within the schools and associated community transmission rates may result in a return to a temporary requirement for masking at the classroom, grade level, school, or district level. Such patterns would first prompt a look at PCR testing of those contacts and then possible quarantining of COVID contacts.

Additionally, as updated guidance is released from the NJDOH adjustments to the protocols outlined in this plan may be made.

#### **Mask-Optional Learning Environment Protocols**

##### *Situations Where Masks Will Not Be Optional*

1. COVID-Positive Individuals - COVID-positive individuals returning to school after day 5 of quarantine will still be required to wear masks and eat in alternate locations on days 6-10.
2. Nurse's Office - Due to the needs of individual students who visit the nurses office and risk of COVID-related symptoms, masks will be required by all students or staff when visiting the nurse's office. These will be provided by the

school nurse when visiting if needed. Additionally, individuals that become ill during the school day will be asked to wear a mask until they leave the school.

### *Supporting Student Needs and Rights*

3. Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying - Staff will be heightened to any harassment, intimidation, and bullying related to mask choice and vaccination status. Counselors are delivering lessons to students and training to staff regarding sensitivity to these topics prior to March 7th with reinforcement thereafter. We ask parents to have similar discussions with their children.
4. Accommodations - If there are students who MUST wear masks we ask that you contact your child's guidance counselor so we may develop an appropriate plan to accommodate needs within the protocols outlined in this document.

### *Contact Tracing*

5. Mask tracking - Staff will no longer ask students to put masks on if they aren't wearing one, however masks will always be available if a student chooses to wear one at any time. As a result, the district will not be identifying and tracking students who are masked or unmasked.
6. Contact Tracing - Due to the inability to track who is wearing a mask and who is not wearing a mask at all times we will no longer be contact tracing. However, in grades PreK-5, parents will be notified if a COVID-positive individual was in their child's homeroom. In grades 6 - 8, parents will be notified if a COVID-positive individual was in their grade level and lunch table.
7. Self-Quarantine and Streaming - Parents will still have the ability to quarantine their child for up to 10 days after receiving notification of a possible COVID-positive contact and may access live streaming. If a parent chooses to do so, please contact your child's principal or guidance counselor.
8. Continued Quarantines- All other quarantine and testing procedures outlined in Section 3.3 of the 2021-2022 Road Forward Health and Safety Plan for the Borough of Rumson School District will continue to be followed. The lifting of the mask mandate does not preclude existing New Jersey Department of Health guidance on these situations.

### *Other Protocols*

9. Transportation- The CDC (2/25/22) and NJDOH (2/26/22) updated it's guidance to reflect that masks are optional on bus transportation for schools. For the Rumson School District, this will be effective March 7th.
10. Social distancing - Separate desks or work areas will be provided to students within the classroom.
11. Small group instruction - As an essential and effective strategy for learning, small group instruction will continue and staff should allow for maximum distancing

when appropriate and where possible. If a student chooses to wear a mask in a small group setting and the teacher works with them 1:1 or in a small group, the teacher will also wear a mask.

12. Student assigned seating - There will be no segregation in the classroom of masked and unmasked students.
13. Mask breaks - These will continue to be provided for those students choosing to wear a mask.
14. School Events- All school events that are an extension of the school day (extracurricular activities, athletics, field trips, assemblies, etc.) will follow the same protocols outlined here. **The wearing of masks will be optional on buses when on field trips, as per CDC and NJDOH guidance.**
15. Chaperones, volunteers, & visitors - As scheduled events occur, adults who are not employees of or contracted services with the school district will be required to complete a COVID screener prior to entering the building with each visit. After school athletics will be mask-optional, however all students must continue to be signed in by an adult who will be responsible for their supervision.

#### **1.4 Distancing & Cohorting -**

- The RSD will implement physical distancing measures of 3 feet for independent seating arrangements where possible.
- Students in grades PreK-5 will be cohorted throughout the day as homerooms, where possible based on program.
- Students in grades 6-8 will be cohorted throughout the day as grade levels, where possible based on program.

#### **1.5 Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette -**

- The RSD will continue to teach and reinforce with our students and staff:
  - Proper handwashing (20 seconds or more)
  - Use of hand sanitizer (60% alcohol)
  - Covering of coughs or sneezes with proper hand-sanitizing
  - Sanitizing hands upon arrival to school, after bathroom use, before & after meals, when sneezing or coughing has occurred
- The RSD will ensure proper supplies are maintained, including:
  - Soap where sinks are located
  - Hand sanitizer in each classroom and at entry points to the school and cafeteria
  - Facial tissues in each space where students and staff are located

#### **1.6 Meals -**

- The RSD will be instituting food service, available to those interested, through our contracted provider.
- During cafeteria usage/ food service, the RSD will
  - Assign students to cafeteria tables within their K-5 class cohort/ 6-8 grade level cohort so that contact tracing by table can be conducted if needed
  - Food service will not be self-serve.
  - Contain the time for maskless eating to be less than 15 minutes when possible.
  - Distance students at lunch to the extent possible.
  - Allow for alternative settings for lunch where & when appropriate.
  - Routinely clean and sanitize between groups, especially frequently touched surfaces
  - Promote hand washing before and after eating

### **1.7 Transportation -**

- The RSD will offer busing services to eligible students in accordance with the following:
  - A [CDC Order](#) exists for the wearing of masks by all individuals on school buses regardless of mask policy within schools or vaccination status
  - Open windows, in appropriate weather, will be used for maximized air flow
  - A bus aide will be present on buses to supervise students with safety and health protocols

## **2. CLEANING, DISINFECTING, & AIRFLOW-**

### **2.1 Shared Supplies & Equipment -**

- The RSD will minimize sharing of supplies & equipment
  - When sharing of materials is necessary, hand hygiene practices will be enforced and/or disinfection of supplies/equipment will be carried out between uses

### **2.2 Cleaning & Disinfecting -**

- The RSD will utilize EPA - registered products
- The RSD will clean & disinfect surfaces at least daily and more frequently where appropriate
- When areas contain COVID-positive person, within 24 hours the RSD will:
  - Increase air circulation to the area
  - Clean and disinfect the area

### **2.3 Airflow -**

- The RSD will maximize the HVAC system's outside airflow to the classrooms, beginning at least an hour before students arrive and two hours after students are dismissed

- The RSD will utilize air purifiers for 8 hours per day in each instructional space
- The RSD will hold activities outdoors whenever appropriate to program
- The RSD will allow for the opening of windows & doors in strict accordance with security protocols
- The RSD will ensure appropriate service and code requirements for HVAC systems with the use of high-efficiency air filters
- The RSD will utilize exhaust fans as much as possible in appropriately designated areas (kitchens, etc.)

### **3. SCREENING, EXCLUSION, SYMPTOM RESPONSE -**

#### **3.1 Parental Screening**

- The RSD will not utilize a daily COVID-19 screening tool.
- The RSD will provide information on and encourage parents to monitor signs of illness
- If your child **presents with ANY COVID-like symptoms** shown below, please keep them home from school and contact the school nurse. The school nurse will help you navigate the next steps based on the [NJDOH School Exclusion Document](#) and classroom streaming will be available.
  - COVID-like symptoms: 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
  - As per NJDOH guidance on December 16th, individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms **and no known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days**, regardless of vaccination status, should [notify the school nurse] to determine when they may return to school **only if they have an alternative diagnosis** (i.e., strep throat, influenza, worsening of chronic illness) supported by clinical evaluation. Alternative diagnoses will be reviewed by the district to determine if a COVID test will be needed.
  - Beginning January 4th, we will have PCR testing on site parents and staff to take advantage of.

#### **3.2 Response to Symptomatic Students & Staff -**

- The RSD will respond to students or staff with COVID-like symptoms by:
  - bringing individuals with COVID-like symptoms to an area away from other students and staff

- ensuring hygiene practices are utilized by both the attending staff member and the student or staff member with symptoms
- ensuring the cleaning and disinfecting of areas where the individual with symptoms was located
- ensuring the individual with symptoms and the attending staff member are masked

### **3.3 Exclusion -**

- The RSD will separate & send for COVID testing individuals who meet the criteria of the COVID-19 screening in Section 3.1.
  - The decision to return individuals to school may not occur until COVID testing results are reported to the district
  - Regardless of vaccination or being COVID-positive in past 90 days , COVID-compatible symptoms will be sent for COVID-testing before being able to return to school, unless an alternative diagnosis is presented when a student has not been in contact with a COVID -positive individual. This alternate diagnosis will be reviewed to determine if a COVID test needs to be administered.
- The RSD requires all COVID testing for clearance to be a PCR test.
- The COVID-19 Quarantine guidelines listed below will be followed:



**Rumson School District Quarantines for Schools - Effective 1/19/22**

[Based on 1/19/22 NJDOH/CDS/NJ K-12 School Guidance](#)

Scenario	District Protocols - Staff & Students
<b>COVID+</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals</li> <li>• 5-day quarantine from test/ symptom onset pending:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asymptomatic do not develop symptoms</li> <li>○ Symptomatic are fever free for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Followed by mask wearing on days 6-10 while at school               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ During lunch these individuals will confidentially eat lunch in an alternative setting (designated classroom/outside) or may be picked up and taken home for lunch by a parent/guardian or designated adult (with written/email confirmation)</li> <li>○ During snack/mask breaks all students will be appropriately and discretely distanced in the classroom and times will be kept to less than 15 minutes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Individuals may quarantine for the full 10 days and continue to access live streaming.</li> <li>• Both positive confirmed rapid antigen and PCR tests are accepted to confirm positivity</li> </ul>
<b>COVID-19 Symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require PCR or written alternative diagnosis from physician*               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ *Alternative diagnosis reviewed by school nurse/physician to approve</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quarantine while waiting for test results; close contacts in the home need to quarantine until results are returned</li> <li>• If negative, symptomatic individual can return once symptoms improve and fever free and contacts can return; in-home close contacts can return immediately</li> <li>• If positive, positive individual follows COVID+ protocol and in-home contacts follow COVID+ In the Home protocols</li> </ul>
<b>COVID+ Contacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully vaccinated do not quarantine or test but symptom watch for 10 days               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For 12 year olds and older, to be considered fully vaccinated an individual must have the appropriate booster shot if/when eligible.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12 -18 year olds with Pfizer must be boosted at month 5 from the original series.</li> <li>■ 18 years and older with Pfizer/Moderna must be boosted at month 5 from the original series.</li> <li>■ 18 years and older with J &amp; J must be boosted at month 2 from original shot</li> <li>■ The time period between the original series and the booster month eligibility is considered fully vaccinated.</li> <li>■ 5-11 year olds are not eligible for booster and are</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completion of the original series.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If in-school transmissions are confirmed or positivity numbers in the district increase above 15, former quarantine guidelines for in-school contacts will be temporarily reinstated.</li> <li>● COVID + confirmed within last 90 days do not quarantine or test but symptom watch for 10 days</li> <li>● Not fully vaccinated individuals quarantine for 5 days after close contact and return with neg PCR no sooner than day 6, fever free, and improved symptoms if symptomatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When the Central East region is orange (per the COVID-19 Weekly CALI report issued by the NJDOH) or district positivity numbers are less than 15 (per the data posted on the Rumson COVID-19 webpage): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ vaccinated and unvaccinated in-school close contacts will not quarantine and will symptom watch for 10 days; if symptoms develop follow guidance for COVID-19 symptoms</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Individuals may quarantine for the full 10 days and continue to access live streaming.</li> </ul>
<b>COVID+ In the Home</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fully vaccinated do not quarantine but symptom watch for 10 days &amp; get PCR test on day 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For 12 year olds and older, to be considered fully vaccinated an individual must have the appropriate booster shot if/when eligible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12 -18 year olds with Pfizer must be boosted at month 5 from the original series.</li> <li>■ 18 years and older with Pfizer/Moderna must be boosted at month 5 from the original series.</li> <li>■ 18 years and older with J &amp; J must be boosted at month 2 from original shot</li> <li>■ The time period between the original series and the booster month eligibility is considered fully vaccinated.</li> <li>■ 5-11 year olds are not eligible for booster and are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completion of the original series.</li> <li>■ If in-school transmissions are confirmed or positivity numbers in the district increase above 15, former quarantine guidelines for in-school contacts will be temporarily reinstated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● COVID + confirmed within last 90 days do not quarantine or test but symptom watch for 10 days</li> <li>● Not fully vaccinated quarantine for 5 days after COVID + individual completes their 5 day quarantine or upon the isolation of the COVID+ individual and return with neg PCR no sooner than day 6, fever free, and improved symptoms if symptomatic</li> </ul>
<b>Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>All Domestic Travel</b> - No exclusion from school required but monitor for symptoms for 10 days.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>International Travel for vaccinated individuals</b> - No exclusion from school required but monitor for symptoms for 10 days</li> <li>• <b>International Travel for unvaccinated individuals</b> - No exclusion from school required but monitor for symptoms for 10 days</li> </ul>
<b>Individuals with COVID Antibodies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those with antibodies will need to follow appropriate quarantine procedures for unvaccinated individuals.</li> </ul>

- Remote Instruction - Where an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the COVID-19 exclusion criteria found in Section 3.3, under the [NJDOE 8.11.21 Educating Students During Quarantine Memo](#), the RSD will provide virtual instruction to the student in all cases.
  - Virtual instruction will be in the form of live-streaming into the classroom
  - Procedures for access to and protocols for participating in virtual streaming will be communicated to parents and students as found in the [21- 22 Road Forward Parent/Student/Staff Handbook](#)
    - Notification of quarantine by 12:00pm during school hours- quarantine begins on the next school day
    - Notification of quarantine after 12:00pm during school hours or after school hours - quarantine begins after one school day is complete
  - Streaming is available in the event that you choose to test as a result of symptoms or close contact.
  - District staff will be in touch regarding access to live streaming for your child and your child will be marked as present virtual.
  - Live Streaming occurs 8:30am-3:05pm per teacher's posted [LANDING PAGE](#)
  - For Live Streaming, students may use their own device or sign out a Chromebook per [Chromebook Acceptable Use Agreement BOE Regulation # 2361](#)
  - Students in need of wifi at home may contact the principal for a district issued hotspot
  - Meal access during virtual learning can be secured for eligible students by contacting the district Business Administrator
- It is not permissible for the RSD to provide full remote access to school for students.
  - If a student is deemed eligible for home instruction under an IEP or 504 or other health-related circumstance, instruction will be delivered through home instruction under [Policy 2412 Home Instruction Due to Health Condition](#)

#### 4. CONTACT TRACING -

- The RSD must notify parents & staff if they or their child was a possible close contact to a COVID-positive individual outside of school.
- Due to the inability to track who is wearing a mask and who is not wearing a mask at all times we will no longer be contact tracing.
  - However, in grades PreK-5 , parents will be notified if a COVID-positive individual was in their child's homeroom.
  - In grades 6 - 8, parents will be notified if a COVID-positive individual was in their grade level and lunch table.
- Parents will still have the ability to quarantine their child for up to 10 days after receiving notification of a possible COVID-positive contact and may access live streaming. If a parent chooses to do so, please contact your child's principal or guidance counselor.
- The RSD must notify Monmouth County Health Commission # 1 of COVID-positive cases and close contacts within the school so they do further contact tracing
- The RSD must, in accordance with Executive Directive 21-011, report weekly student and staff case counts as well as information on student/staff census, and the total numbers of fully vaccinated students/staff to the NJDOH.

## **5. TESTING -**

- The RSD will not be participating in screening testing at this time.
- The RSD will provide for PCR testing on site as an option beginning January 4th.

## **6. VISITORS -**

- The RSD will limit non-essential visitors during moderate to high transmission periods.
- The RSD may limit use of indoor facilities by outside organizations that may have individuals without vaccinations during moderate to high transmission
- As scheduled events occur, adults who are not employees of or contracted services with the school district will be required to complete a COVID screener prior to entering the building with each visit.

## **7. PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES- [COVID Sports Safety Procedures \(linked here\)](#)**

- The RSD will provide recess and physical education as part of the daily student schedule.

- All protocols outlined in this plan will apply to these programs.
  - Masks are not required for indoor or outdoor activities but are optional to those who want to wear them.
- The RSD will offer extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and athletics as part of the student program.
  - All protocols outlined in this plan will apply to these programs.
  - Masks are not required for indoor or outdoor activities but are optional to those who want to wear them.
- All school events that are an extension of the school day (extracurricular activities, athletics, field trips, assemblies, etc.) will follow the same protocols outlined here.
  - The wearing of masks will be required on buses when on field trips, as required by federal mandate.
- After school athletics will be mask-optional, however all students must continue to be signed in by an adult who will be responsible for their supervision.
- When case rates within the district or outbreaks occur in a community extracurricular activities involving physical interaction will be postponed until the case rates decrease and/or an outbreak is concluded.