

Ramsey CUSD #204

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service 2021-2022

The Ramsey CUSD #204 Return to Learn Plan is aligned with the guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). School strategies in this plan may be removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (low, moderate, substantial, and high), and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff, students, and parents through the district communication platforms.

Ramsey School District will be open for in-person instruction for all student attendance days for the 2021-2022 school year. On regular school days, school will be in session from 8:00 AM-3:05 PM. Remote learning instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Ramsey CUSD #204 will be in operation in accordance with CDC's guidance for COVID-19 prevention in school. These guidelines include the following:

Covid-19--Sick Day Guidelines

Students will be sent home with symptoms based on the current COVID 19 Symptoms per CDC.

Return to Learn: Symptoms to Covid-19.

According to IDPH, medical evaluation and COVID-19 diagnostic testing is mandatory for all individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.

- Please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health's School Guidance Decision Tree to view the COVID-19 quarantine procedures.
 - <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf>

Check in Procedure for a student who is returning from a COVID-19 related absence:

- Teachers or office staff will notify the school nurse as soon as the student is present.
- Students' symptoms will be checked to evaluate if criteria have been met.

Symptom Check Procedures:

- Students, Faculty, and Staff will be required to stay home if they are sick.
- If an individual arrives at school with the above mentioned Covid-19 sick day guideline symptoms, they will need to go home until the return to learn criteria above is met according to the IDPH Decision Tree.
- If a student has a fever or symptom they will not be allowed on the school bus or entry to the school building.

- If an individual is at school and develops Covid-19 symptoms that individual will be quarantined until they are able to leave the building. The siblings living in the same household of the individual will also have to be quarantined and leave school immediately. Those individuals will not be able to return to school for 5 days, or until an alternative diagnosis is made or negative COVID-19 results are received. A parent will be notified as soon as the symptoms develop and must pick up their child as soon as possible. The student will have to complete the return to learn steps before being allowed to enter the building.

Face Coverings

- Ramsey CUSD #204 will follow the guidance from IDPH on face coverings in schools.
- Ramsey CUSD #204 mandates face coverings for all students and staff while in the school building.

Measures to Keep Students/Staff Safe

- Students will be given assigned seats in classrooms and on the buses.
- Student desks will be 3 feet apart where possible.
- Students will not share items or technology throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving classrooms.
- Students can bring their own water bottle and fill them at the water bottle filling stations.
- Increased cleaning of school buildings will take place, especially high-touch surfaces.
- Classrooms and common areas will be sprayed daily.
- Visitors may be screened when entering the building. Visitors will only be allowed to visit the designated area. Administrative staff can deny entry due to health and safety concerns.

Test To Stay with Symptoms-WITHOUT COVID-19 Exposure

- Students and staff that are exhibiting symptoms will have the opportunity to take a COVID-19 test at school.
- Parents will have to sign the COVID-19 consent form before the nurse will test a student.
Consent Form:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KtY7ZzCpNC--2yCotU_WO_I8soM0KG-YTaEfN1ZfP3c/edit?usp=sharing
- If the COVID-19 testing results in a negative test for the individual student then the siblings of that student can stay in school
- The nurse will determine based on the student that was tested if he/she will be able to stay at school.
- The school only has a few number of tests available for the test to stay protocol. If we do not have any tests available at the time of a symptomatic individual, then he/she will have to get a test at the health department or from this physician. While an individual is waiting on testing results then other household members will have to stay home until the test results are received.

Covid-19 Exposure:

Schools are **not** expected to test students or staff to **identify** cases of COVID-19 when individuals have initial symptoms.

If the school has direct cases of COVID-19, we will assist local health officials to identify those individuals and we will collaborate to follow up on the next steps and initiate contact tracing.

Exposure is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes. Contact tracing will be initiated to identify individuals that were exposed to a person with COVID-19. An exposed person will be quarantined at home for **5** days to self monitor for COVID symptoms. For an individual to return on day 5 he/she will need to have a negative test. The individual will also need to wear a mask for the remaining 5 days. If the individual develops symptoms he/she should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.

Test to Return Protocol - WITH COVID-19 Exposure

- After being designated a close contact will not be able to return to learn and be able to participate in extracurricular activities for two full calendar days.
- For a student to return to learn and participate in extracurricular activities,
 - Close contacts must have a negative test result.
 - Close contacts that are considered close contacts will have daily required symptoms checks for 7 calendar days.
 - Close contact will be tested on day five to ensure negative results to be able to return to school. If a student is positive they will be isolated for 5 days. As long as students continue to test negative and have no symptoms they will be able to return to learn.
 - When testing is not possible due to weekends and holidays, students will be tested at the earliest possible opportunity to return to learn.
 - Parents will have to sign a consent form for the testing to be administered for the test to return protocol. The close contact will not be able to return until the consent form is signed by a parent or guardian and the documentation for the initial negative COVID test is received.
 - A close contact will be required to wear a mask during the test to return period.
 - A close contact will be tested on the designated days in the nurse's office before the start of school, from 7:50-8:00.
 - It is required that a parent or guardian come to the school for the testing protocol.
Parents or guardians will be expected to wait for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- **Any non compliant individual, will not be able to utilize the Test to Return Protocol**

Close Contact Explanation:

- A close contact is anyone (with or without a face covering) who was within 6 feet of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (with or without a face covering), for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of a day. The period of close contact begins 2 calendar days before the onset of symptoms (for a symptomatic person) or 2 calendar days before the positive sample was obtained (for an asymptomatic person). If the case was symptomatic (e.g., coughing, sneezing), persons with briefer periods of exposure may

also be considered contacts. Close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19 are **strongly recommended** to remain in quarantine at home for **5** calendar days starting from the last day of contact with the confirmed case. Students also have the option to utilize the test to return protocol. Parents will need to notify the building principal or school nurse of their plan for quarantining.

School/Classroom Exposure:

- Exposure in a classroom should be limited to everyone with whom the confirmed or probable COVID case had close contact, within 3 feet, for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of a day. Exposure on a bus must include everyone who sat within 6 feet of the confirmed or probable COVID case for 15 minutes or longer. A person that is considered a close contact is required to quarantine at home for **5** calendar days starting from the last day of contact with the confirmed case. Students also have the option to utilize the test to return protocol. Parents will need to notify the building principal or school nurse of their plan for quarantining.

Household Contact Exposure:

- If one of the household members is being evaluated for COVID-19, the rest of the household must be quarantined until an alternative diagnosis is made or a negative result is received. If the sick student becomes a confirmed case (i.e., tests positive for COVID-19) or a probable case (i.e., has COVID-like symptoms and is epidemiologically linked to known case), the local health department (LHD) conducting contact tracing will place household contacts, including siblings, in quarantine for **5** calendar days. The health department also will provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household. Household contacts have to quarantine for **5** days and must be symptom free before returning to school. **Household contacts are unable to utilize the test to return protocols.**

Fully Vaccinated Individuals:

- For an individual to be considered a vaccinated individual they must show proof of vaccination. According to IDPH, fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should wear a mask in public indoor settings for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result.

Contract Tracing:

- Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 (cases) and people who they came in contact with (close contacts) and working with them to interrupt disease spread. This includes asking people with COVID-19 to isolate and their contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

- Contact tracing will be performed by the Local Health Department (LHD). However, schools can assist the LHD by identifying all close contacts with a confirmed case. Documentation of assigned seats and assembled classes can be useful in helping schools determine who was within 6 feet of a given case.

Remote Learning:

Remote learning instruction will only be made available for unvaccinated or vaccinated ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or IDPH.

Athletics

- Athletic programs will run as normal with full activity fees charged and admission charged at indoor, home sporting events.
- All athletic teams and spectators may have to conform to host school policies while participating in their facility.
- The district will be prepared to adjust athletic programming as necessary throughout the school year.

Consideration for School Closure due to Covid-19

- Governmental Mandates the school close due to Covid-19
- Ramsey CUSD#204 will look at the following county level metrics as a baseline for making decisions on our learning model in collaboration with FCHD:
 - Positivity rate over 8%
 - New cases per 100,000- target is less than 50 per 100,000
 - ICU bed availability- at least 20% available.
 - Number of CLI admissions. Target- decreasing or stable

Link to metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Fayette>

- When any three of the four above hit warning, we will consider going REMOTE for ALL students until the time we come out of warning as a county.
- We will also take into consideration the number/and or percentage of students and staff in our district that are probable COVID-19 positives as part of the decision to go remote for all.
- If we have two positive cases in one building (not living in the same household), we will close for 2-5 days for deep cleaning.
- If 10% of our student population is experiencing symptoms, we will close for 2-5 days for deep cleaning.

Plan Review

- Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate. Revisions will address the most recent updated safety recommendations by the CDC, IDPH, and the local health department.
- **When revisions are made, all parents will be notified via school reach program.**

Resources:

Click the links below for more information:

- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Fayette County Health Department](#)
- [Center of Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Ramsey Community Unit School District](#)

