

Rocky Hill Public Schools Reopening Plan for School Year 2021-22

Rocky Hill Board of Education

July 20, 2021

Overview of CDC and State of Connecticut's Guidelines for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Individuals

CDC Masking Recommendations

- Masks in schools for unvaccinated individuals
- No masks in schools for vaccinated individuals

State of Connecticut - Departments of Public Health and Education

- No stance on masks **in school buildings** as of July 20, 2021
- State officials anticipate providing recommendations within the next few weeks
- Anticipate mirroring CDC recommendations
- Masks are required on all forms of public transportation, for all individuals, including school buses, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks not required outside for recess and physical education; however, distancing encouraged. Hand hygiene promoted before and after such activities.

Vaccinations

- Vaccination (for those eligible) is the #1 prevention strategy available to school districts for mitigating the spread of the virus and maintaining in-person learning.
- Statewide Data for Vaccinations (at least one dose)
 - Ages 12-17 55%
 - Ages 12-15 49%
 - Ages 16-17 66%
- Full Vaccine Status - 2 weeks after second dose (or after one-dose of J&J - staff only)

Distancing and Cohorting

- 3 feet - recommended distance when feasible
- Cohorting can be relaxed if other mitigation strategies are in place
- Consider adding lunch waves to create more distance between unmasked children during lunch

Cleaning, Disinfection, Hygiene

- Routine Cleaning Procedures are Recommended
- Continuous spot disinfection of high touch surfaces is no longer necessary
- Contaminated surfaces **are not identified** as a significant source of risk for transmission
- Food Services does not need to continue with single-use, disposable items
- Student and staff barriers not required - will only be used if requested on an individual basis

Isolation, Quarantine, Contacts

- Vaccinated Individuals are no longer required to quarantine following exposure if they remain asymptomatic
- Students seated at least 3 ft. from a confirmed case no longer need to quarantine based upon a classroom exposure (if the student remains asymptomatic and masks were in use by the positive student and the exposed student)
- Districts should emphasize identifying individual close contacts vs. exclusion of the entire class (this will require classroom seating charts)

Sports and Other Extracurriculars

- Masking for unvaccinated individuals is advised when indoors or for any high-intensity activity (enhanced respiration) e.g., (football, ice hockey)
- Fall athletics should begin on time for SY 2020-21 with full seasons planned (applies to RHHS and GMS)
- Fully vaccinated students/staff do not have to quarantine from sports or other activities following exposure to a confirmed case if they remain asymptomatic
- The higher the vaccination rate on a team, the greater the likelihood that the team will continue to maintain regular practice and game schedules, and complete the season without interruption

American Rescue Plan Funded Positions for 2021-22 & 2022-23

- Floating School Nurse- will ensure appropriate nursing coverage for all schools
- Instructional Technology Support Teacher- will provide necessary support and coaching for teachers in all technology programs and district approved applications
- Instructional Tech-will support assistive technology districtwide as well as instructional technology within the curriculum office
- Preschool special education teacher- needed to respond to the significant increases in pre-school referrals to special education
- Credit recovery programs at RHHS are necessary to assist students with earning all required credits and graduating on time
- Athletic secretarial staff- will provide outreach to families as well as assist with COVID-19 protocols such as contact tracing and identifying close contacts
- Kindergarten paraprofessionals at Stevens and West Hill School - assist with implementing social distancing and other mitigation strategies
- Secretarial staff in the curriculum office - will assist with notifications to families regarding statewide assessments, EL assessments as well as assisting with increasing the number of students participating in statewide assessments
- Homebound instruction for students who are unable to attend in-person learning due to a medical diagnosis or a disability

Secondary School Schedules (RHHS & GMS) Considerations

Shared staffing requires coordination between the two schools.

GMS – Block A/B, Regular 8 Period Day or Modified Block Schedule – TBD

- Regular 8 period day at GMS fills cafeteria with 200 students per lunch wave (remember, 40% of GMS students were remote last year).
- 8 period day eliminates scheduled mask breaks (if mask are required)
- Reduced Lunch Waves (100 students per lunch wave) requires beginning lunch at 8:54 a.m. and ending the last wave at 1:56 p.m.
- A/B Block allows for lunches of 100 students per lunch wave.
- Modified Block - Periods 1, 2, 3, and 8 meeting every day for 43 minutes
- Periods 4,5,6, and 7 meeting on the A/B rotation (every other day) - this allows for lunch waves of roughly 100 students ($\frac{1}{2}$ of each grade level in separate waves). Lunch would begin at 10:26 and end at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Rocky Hill High School

- RHHS – Planning to Run A/B Block Schedule
 - A Day – Periods 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (1/2 period)
 - B Day – Periods 5 (1/2 Period), 6, 7, 8, & 9
 - Lunch Waves will be reduced by the use of the multi-purpose room in addition to the cafeteria (four lunch waves - roughly 100 to 80 students in each space during lunch).

Meet & Greet and Open Houses Expectations

- Meet and Greet and Open Houses
- Should be able to be held in typical fashion; however, all attendees should be required to wear masks (district cannot verify vaccine status of all participants)

Primary School Breakfast Programs and After-School Programming

- Proposal to pilot breakfast programs at West Hill and Stevens
- No charge for all students (2021-22 SY only)
- Grab-n-Go (granola bars, muffins, cheese sticks, beverage)
- Focus needs to remain on opening schools safely for all students (100%) to participate as in-person learners
- Administration could approach the Town or another outside agency to investigate feasibility of starting a program after schools open (late fall - early winter)

Discussion, Questions, Etc.