

August 7, 2020 revised March 5, 2021

Governor Cuomo recently announced that schools in New York State may open. We have summarized below the health and safety precautions we intend to put into place when school reopens. All protocols follow New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department guidance.

Temperature Screenings:

- Staff, Students and Visitors will have their temperature taken before entering the school buildings.
- If a temperature is ≥ 100.0 , staff and visitors will **NOT** be permitted to enter the building. Students will be sent to a specifically identified isolation room until a parent/person in parental relation can pick the student up from school.
- Students taking the Rockville Centre school bus will have their temperatures taken at the bus stop before entering the school bus by a trained staff member.
- If a temperature is ≥ 100.0 , students will not be permitted on the school bus.
- Cooperation from parent/person in parental relation is vital.

School Bus:

- Students traveling on the school bus are required to wear a face covering at all times.
- If a student forgets his/her face covering, the District will provide one.
- Students will maintain social distancing on the school bus according to the NYS guidance.
- Windows will remain open for ventilation purposes according to NYS guidance
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not permitted on the school bus.

Medical Screening Questionnaire:

- STAFF: All staff must complete a medical screening questionnaire **every day** before the start of the school day and before having their temperature taken. These questions will be completed on an app that can be downloaded to their devices. These questions must be answered daily and at least 60 minutes before the start of the school day. The medical screening questionnaires will be monitored by the school nurse. If there is any question or concern about the responses submitted or if a staff member fails to submit the survey, they will be prevented from entering the building until the questionnaire has been completed or the nurse has been able to clarify the information of concern. The questions will include:
 - Have you been in close contact in the past 10 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID 19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID 19?
 - Have you tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID 19 in the past 10 days?
 - Have you experienced any symptoms of COVID 19, including a temperature of greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the past 10 days?
 - Have you traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID 19 per the NYS travel advisory in the past 10 days?
- STUDENTS: Parents will complete a health questionnaire **every day** before the start of the school day for each of their children **UNLESS their child is fully remote. Students who are remote but are participating in sports and/or after school activity are required to complete a**

questionnaire every day before the beginning of the school day and on weekends the event is occurring prior to arriving at the event. These health questions will be completed on an app that can be downloaded to their devices. These questions must be answered daily and at least 60 minutes before the start of the school day. If there is any question or concern about the responses submitted or if a student survey is not received, the student will be directed to a specific location in each building until the questionnaire has been completed or the nurse has been able to clarify the information of concern.

- Instructions on downloading the app and setting up the accounts for students and staff will be provided before the opening of school.

Health Procedures

- Staff and students will be educated on proper handwashing technique, how to put on and remove a face covering and the importance to remain home when not feeling well. Staff will be trained on the designated Superintendent's Conference days prior to the students' return. Students will receive training on personal hygiene protocols, social distancing, and use of face coverings on the first day of school.
- If a student or staff member becomes ill during the school day, staff will be sent home. The students will be sent to the isolation room until a parent/person in parental relation picks up the ill student from school. The most common COVID symptoms as of July 13, 2020 are:
 - fever (100 or greater) 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 and/or diarrhea.
- Students and staff will use face coverings when in the building. Face coverings may be removed during snack, lunch and short breaks throughout the day. Students who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a documented medical condition or sensory issues will be carefully monitored by classroom staff.
- Face masks will be provided to any student or staff who forgets to bring a mask to school.
- Students and staff will use alcohol-based hand sanitizers upon entering classrooms and during snack, lunch and recess. This will not replace handwashing with soap and water. This will be in addition to handwashing. A letter explaining the protocol and hand sanitizer opt out option will be sent to each family in the District.
- All bathroom hand dryers have been turned off as per NYS guidance. Hands free paper towels will be used instead.
- Classroom doors will remain open to reduce the spread of the virus from touching door levers and knobs.
- Students and staff are permitted to bring their own water container to school to fill at the water fountains. We encourage students and staff to use the water fountains as bottle filling stations only.
- Only personnel deemed essential will be permitted in the school buildings.
- Signage will be placed in the building and outside reminding of 6 feet social distancing, importance of wearing a facial covering, and hand washing.

- Plastic barriers will be placed on desks of students in grade K-5 and will be cleaned daily by the custodial staff.
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect the buildings nightly.
- All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been ordered by the District. This includes:
 - Masks (Adult and pediatric)
 - Clear facial masks for related service providers and Elementary teachers
 - Disposable gowns
 - Face Shields
 - Sneeze Guards
 - Isolation curtains in nurses' offices
 - Plastic desk barriers
 - Hand sanitizers
 - Sanitizing wipes
- The students will not participate in the disinfecting process or have access to any disinfecting and cleaning product other than alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Nursing:

- Due to the dangers of aerosol generating procedures, the nurses will identify a nebulizer treatment room separate and apart from the isolation room and health office. We are encouraging parents/persons in parental relation to consult with their child's healthcare provider to determine if an inhaler alone is sufficient to reduce the risk nebulizers present.
- Hewitt nurse's office was moved to Room 7 to accommodate New York Guidance.
- Isolation rooms for ill staff and students that are being sent home are identified for each building as follows:
 - Covert – Faculty room
 - Hewitt – Previous nurse's office
 - Riverside – Physical Education office
 - SSMS – School store
 - SSHS – Speech and community education offices
 - Watson – Room 133
 - Wilson – Physical Education office
 - St. Agnes-Resource Room in Main Lobby (Resource Room will be relocated)

School Meals:

- Students will eat in the classroom in the elementary schools and in classrooms at SSHS if the student does not have a scheduled lunch.
- Cafeteria use will be used for SSMS and SSHS while maintaining 6 feet social distancing.
- Meals will be made available to students daily whether the student is in the school building or learning remotely.
- Custodial staff will disinfect cafeteria after each lunch period.

COVID Diagnosis Protocol:

- If a student or staff is sent home with COVID like illness, a note from a New York State licensed healthcare provider stating a non COVID medical diagnosis must be submitted before the

student or staff can return to school before the minimum of 10 days. The student or staff must also be fever free for at least 24 hours while off fever reducing agents before returning to school.

- If a student or staff has a COVID diagnosis, the school nurse must be notified. The staff or student will be quarantined at home for a minimum of 10 days and must be feeling well for at least 24 hours, and be fever free, off fever reducing agents for at least 3 days, and showing an improvement of symptoms for at least 3 days, and/or a **quarantine release letter from Nassau County Department of Health** or a written note from a New York State healthcare provider returning the student or staff to school.
- The District Medical Officer, Tara M. Algerio-Vento, FNP-BC, will be notified of all illnesses district wide and will then notify the Nassau County Department of Health.
- Nassau County Department of Health will make all subsequent decisions regarding closures (if any), 10 day quarantine (if required) and notification requirements.
- The names of those exposed to the student or staff diagnosed with COVID will be provided to Nassau County Department of Health for health tracing to begin.

COVID Exposure Protocol:

- If a student or staff is directly exposed to COVID, the District will provide to the exposed parties a written notification on the same day the District Health Officer, Tara M. Algerio-Vento, FNP-BC, is made aware of such exposure.
- Nassau County Department of Health will make all subsequent decisions regarding closures (if any), **10** day quarantine (if required) and notification requirements.
- The names of those exposed to COVID will be provided to Nassau County Department of Health for health tracing to begin.
- If a student or staff who was directly exposed to COVID, has a negative COVID test, they will not be permitted to return to school until the **10** days of quarantine has passed. This is due to the fact the exposed student or staff may develop COVID symptoms after the test was taken.

COVID-19 Testing Plan

Staff and students will not be required to receive a COVID 19 test or antibody test prior to reentering the school building in September.

Decisions on whether a staff member or student should undergo a COVID 19 test (exhibiting symptoms of COVID like illness or having had close contact with a positive COVID case), will be determined by a New York State Health Care provider, or the Nassau County Department of Health.

If a student or staff member is recommended for a COVID test, they may procure a test from the following locations. This list is not exhaustive but provides information on rapid tests and local testing sites:

- AFC Urgent Care in East Meadow, Farmingdale and West Islip for rapid COVID testing
- City MD, 560 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre
- PM Pediatrics Urgent Care, 350 Sunrise Highway, Rockville Centre
- Mt. Sinai/South Nassau, One Healthy Way, Oceanside, NY

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is performed by the Nassau County Department of Health in cooperation with the Rockville Centre School District.

1. Staff, students or immediate family members of staff or students who test positive for COVID 19 must report this information immediately to their school building nurse, the District Medical Officer, Ms. Algerio-Vento, or through the District COVID 19 reporting mailbox, covid-selfreporting@rvcschools.org.
2. Once the positive case of COVID-19 is made known (either directly to the Department of Health or through the District), the District Medical Officer (DMO) and the Department of Health (DOH) will contact the individuals involved to discuss the date and time they were last in the school building, when symptoms occurred, and when they received the diagnosis. With that information, the DMO contacts the NC Department of Health to confirm the positive case in Nassau County's data base.
3. The DMO will also interview the school nurse and the building principal to gather information on who else might have been exposed to the infected individual. The DMO will call the Nassau County DOH to provide all of the names of the students and staff potentially exposed to the infected individual.
4. The DOH will contact the individuals identified as potentially exposed to discuss length of quarantine (if any), requirements to return to school if quarantined, and any other potential contacts.
5. Nassau County DOH will provide the District Medical Officer the necessary documentation requirements for notifying parties as directed by that agency.

We continue to move forward and plan for schools to re-open in September. I hope this provides some insight to the measures being implemented to ensure the health and safety of all are being maintained.

Tara M. Algerio-Vento, FNP-BC
District Family Nurse Practitioner