

Rockford Public Schools Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

Rockford Public Schools will continue to prioritize full, in-person teaching and learning which provides the greatest benefit to students. Ensuring that this can happen both consistently and safely during the upcoming school year, the 2023-24 Return to Learn Plan provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff in Kent County. This plan was developed using guidance from the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) to ensure that our school district has a successful and safe return to school and learning environment plan. Additional supporting documents include the Michigan Department of Education/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services “Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools” resource.

Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants or if the risks of severe disease, hospitalizations, or death increase. The plan may also need to vary based on in-school COVID-19 activity and outbreaks. If such changes are necessary, transition time may be needed to allow the district or building to make adjustments to mitigation strategies. Periodically, but not more than every six months during the life of the grant, the plan will be reviewed and updates will be completed, if deemed necessary.

Supporting Documents: [MDE and MDHHS “Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools”](#)
[MDHHS Readiness, Response, Recovery Cycle](#) [CDC Community Levels](#) [Mi Safe Start Map](#)

The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for the county. Based on the community COVID-19 level, as determined by the CDC, Rockford Public Schools, in consultation with KCHD, MDHSS and MMDHD as necessary, will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to foster optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of students and staff.

The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.

The following plan outlines measures for the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of low, medium, and high.
The levels do not apply in situations of COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, classrooms, or athletics.

Low	Medium	High
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Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:

Low	Medium	High
Instructional Format		
In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur, but some classes, grades, or buildings may be moved temporarily to remote instruction if required by the health department due to outbreaks and to control in-school spread.
Athletics		
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. Additional safety protocols may be put into place.. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
Cleaning and Disinfecting		
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms.
COVID-19 Testing		

Testing will not be required but may be offered to families.

Extracurricular and Field Trips

Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.

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Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be considered.

Face Coverings (Masks)

Face coverings are not required for students, staff, visitors, or volunteers.

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Districts may choose to require masks when required by the MMDHD, MDHHS, and/or CDC.

Food Service

Normal foodservice operations will occur.

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Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place as required by KCHD.

Gathering and Facility Use

No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.

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Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected.

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Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day.

Isolation and Quarantine

The District will follow requirements of the KCHD.

Offices

District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.

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District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Visitors and guests may be limited.

Remote/Virtual Learning

The district does have a remote/virtual learning /option. The district can employ this option if an order from KCHD or MDHHS requires the closing of a classroom or school. If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure may be provided remote/virtual learning opportunities throughout the closure.

Social Distancing

Social distancing measures are not required.

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Feasible social distancing measures may be put in place. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.

Health Screening

Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.

DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.

See the student illness section.

Student Illness

Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per PO 8450 - Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases. Students exhibiting the following symptoms that are new or different/worse from their baseline of any chronic illness shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as indicated for their illness. (see https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Managing_CD_in_Schools_FINAL_469824_7.PDF)

- Severely ill (lethargic or less responsive, has difficulty breathing)
- Fever (temp over 100.4) or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough, shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting(two or more times)
- Diarrhea (two or more loose or watery stools)
- Abdominal pain
- Rash with fever
- Wearing skin sores that cannot be covered
- New loss of taste or smell

Transportation

Normal transportation operations will occur.

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Vaccinations

The district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. The KCHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person