

Rocklin Unified School District

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Rocklin Unified's COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year

Dear Staff and Families,

Rocklin Unified is looking forward to welcoming students back to campus for the 2021-2022 school year on Wednesday, August 11. The start of this year will continue our efforts to return to normalcy in our schools after nearly 18 months of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a renewed focus on student learning and a coordinated effort to provide socio-emotional support as students transition back to regular school.

In order, this message will discuss the COVID safety protocols that will be in place when students return to school, Independent Study, and the RUSD Free Meals Program.

Many of the stringent restrictive health and safety mandates have been relaxed. However, based on the Governor's order, California remains in a state of emergency due to the continued spread of COVID-19, which legally requires RUSD to implement CDPH guidance to keep students and staff safe.

New CDPH Guidance Mandates Require:

Face Masks/Coverings:

- Face masks/coverings are **optional when outdoors** on campus for all students and staff members. This may include lunch, recess, passing periods, outdoor P.E., outdoor assemblies, athletics, walking onto and off campus, and other outdoor school-based activities.
- Regardless of vaccination status, students must wear a **face mask when indoors at school and on school transportation** unless the student has a Medical or Mental Health Exemption on file, which will be made available in the coming days prior to the start of the school year. Click [here](#) for more information on enforcement options. In a typical TK-6 daily schedule, a student would be wearing a mask for no more than two (2) hours at time, often for much less, due to scheduled breaks, recess, lunch, and other transitions. Students in grades 7-8 will be wearing a mask for no more than 47 minutes at a time. Students in grades 9-12 will wear a mask for no more than 86 minutes.
- All RUSD staff must wear a face mask while sharing indoor spaces with students at school and on school transportation.
- During the 2021-2022 school year, students wearing masks have a **modified quarantine** that allows them to remain at school as long as they are asymptomatic (have no symptoms). This means the majority of students, other than those who are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms, will be able to be at school learning and participating in athletics and other school-sanctioned activities.
- We're excited to move forward with the traditional athletic seasons. CDPH has announced they will provide updated athletic guidance in the coming days.

New CDPH Guidance Loosens Some Restrictions:

- While Rocklin Unified will continue to **maximize indoor spaces** whenever possible, physical distancing is no longer a requirement.
- Furthermore, many schools are committed to **creating additional outdoor learning opportunities** for students where they can remove their face coverings.
- Approved visitors and volunteers are welcome on RUSD campuses and must self screen for COVID-19 symptoms before entering school campuses, adhere to wearing a face mask/covering while indoors and when students are present, regardless of vaccination status.
- Rocklin Unified will continue to utilize MERV-13 filtration systems in all classrooms, offices, and indoor spaces.

Additional Information:

Recommendations for Staying Home When Symptomatic and Getting Tested

- Students and staff members that feel sick and/or have symptoms of COVID-19 should remain at home and get tested. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Fever (100.4 F/38 C or higher)
 - Cough
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Difficulty breathing
- Staff and students may return for in-person teaching/instruction after meeting CDPH criteria for those with symptoms, which includes:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved; **AND**
 - They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, **OR** a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma), **OR** a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), **OR** at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Quarantine Recommendations for Close Contacts Wearing Face Masks

After it is determined that there was a positive case in a K-12 classroom or cohort, then all school staff and families of students in the class/cohort would be notified by the school that their child has been exposed to COVID-19 and recommend testing and monitoring for symptoms.

Weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing is optional. Testing will be available to staff and students with parent consent, as requested.

Isolation Guidance when an individual has Tested Positive for COVID-19 RUSD staff and students with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 test.
- If they develop symptoms, then the strategies for discontinuing self-isolation for asymptomatic persons (see above) should be used.

Independent Study

With the change in California State Law, the concept of distance learning that was implemented the previous school year has been discontinued. Students requiring a fully- or partially-remote option may participate in Independent Study through the Rocklin Alternative Education Center ([RAEC](#)). Due to capacity limitations, the Rocklin Virtual Campus (RVC) is currently enrolling students as space becomes available. Click [here](#) for more information on student/parent/educator conferences, procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and re-enrolling, and synchronous and asynchronous time your student will have access to during Independent Study.

RUSD Nutrition Services Updates

RUSD will provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all children under age 18 (and transition students under age 22) throughout the 2021-2022 school year. While meals are free, funding for programs such as transportation, mental and health services, technology, and staff and parent education are dependent on income verification. RUSD is urging families to fill out an [online Annual Household Income Eligibility Form](#) to ensure grant funding for vital programs remains in place.

Lunch will be served at all campuses during lunch periods. However, the following schools will serve breakfast before school for their enrolled students:

- Antelope Creek Elementary
- Parker Whitney Elementary
- Rocklin Elementary
- Spring View Middle School
- Rocklin High School
- Whitney High School

Children 18 years of age and younger that are not RUSD students may pick up their free meals from either Rocklin or Whitney high schools, Monday through Friday, from 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Online Payments

Children will receive one free breakfast and/or lunch meal per day. Second meals are available for a fee that may be made through RUSD's new payment portal called "TITAN." Funds will be automatically transferred from a student's "MySchoolBucks" account to their new TITAN account. For more information on setting up a TITAN account or to review the USDA Non-Discrimination Statement, please visit the RUSD Nutrition Services website by clicking [here](#).

We appreciate partnering with you as you have trusted us to provide a safe educational experience for all students. We are committed to keeping our school communities informed and will communicate immediately if and when these requirements or guidelines change.

Thank you,

Rocklin Unified School District