

COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions for School Communities

1. How can the public avoid the virus?

- Keep your distance from people who are sick, but it is important to remember that just because someone coughs or sneezes doesn't mean they have COVID-19. Furthermore, if you or someone in your household becomes sick, they should remain home for the duration of their illness so as not to spread any virus.
- Precautions you take during the seasonal flu are similar to what people should be doing to avoid the coronavirus and other respiratory diseases:
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

2. Should I (or my student) wear a mask?

Common surgical masks block the droplets coming out of a sick person from getting into the air, but they are not tight enough to prevent what's already in the air from getting in. This being said, if you are not sick, you don't need to wear a mask. High-end masks and surgical gloves are not only expensive but are difficult to use properly and will likely still not prevent any virus in the air from getting in without training.

3. How are student absences being handled?

All absences due to illness are excused with parent confirmation, per policies outlined in our district materials. This information can be found on page seven of RUSD's 2019-2020 Annual Parent Notice:

www.rocklinusd.org/Parents/Annual-Parent-Notice

4. Should I keep my healthy student home from school?

At this time, RUSD is not recommending that students remain home from school or engage in independent study as there is no identified presence of coronavirus in our school district. In case of a broader coronavirus emergency within RUSD, the district or county health department may potentially recommend school closures. At this time, the

district would provide additional guidance and protocols to families. However, per our normal illness protocols, should your child present with fever or other flu-like symptoms, they should remain at home until their symptoms have cleared. This is even more important given the potential for transmission of coronavirus.

5. Are there any plans to alter or cancel travel, field trips, school dances, etc. due to concerns?

There are no recommendations from public health officials at this time for the cancellation of public events or field trips. Based on direction from Placer County Public Health, “students and school staff should go about their daily lives and practice the same precautions that they normally do during cold and flu season.”

6. What is RUSD doing for students and staff members at this time?

Currently, our Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations teams use a product line called “ZBioscience Probiotic Cleaners,” which has been bioengineered using biosurfactants and probiotic bacteria (Good bacteria like we have on our skin, in our stomachs and our immune systems) to target pathogen bacteria (Bad bacteria that spreads disease and causes illness). These products produce a protective enzyme layer of probiotics that continue to target and utilize the good bacteria left on surfaces to eliminate any bad bacteria left - in turn, stopping the spread of germs.

These probiotic products will continue to target bacteria for up to 72 hours and have been proven to be more effective than traditional chemical cleaners like Clorox, Lysol, etc. These traditional cleaners remove even the good bacteria, which allows any remaining bad bacteria to repopulate at an exponential rate.

However, the most effective preventative measure that can be taken in regards to transmitting viruses has to do with personal hygiene, specifically handwashing. To that end, we are making sure there is district-wide access to hand sanitizer in every classroom and multi-purpose room in addition to the soap that is provided by every sink used for handwashing. RUSD will provide verbal and written reminders to school staff and students to wash their hands regularly.

UPDATE: We are now using a high-strength sanitizing solution that has been approved by the CDC against this specific strain of coronavirus, called Oxivir. Like all viral cleaning products though, this product is only effective in the short-term. Viruses typically have a short surface dwell time, however, so the Oxivir is effective in that sense. It creates an immediate clean slate but does

nothing long-term to protect the surface from being contaminated by virus, bacteria, or any other microbial contaminants.

7. What happens if a child is symptomatic with flu/cold symptoms?

If a child is symptomatic (for example fever greater than 100.4, shortness of breath, cough, congestion), they should stay home and contact their personal physician for further guidance. A child may return to school once fever-free for 24 hours without medication. If they are at school and begin to feel sick, they should check in with the health office.

8. What if a student catches the virus?

Any time a student is confirmed to have a communicable disease, Rocklin Unified communicates with Placer County Public Health for directives and guidance on preventing the spread of the specific communicable disease. This not only applies to COVID-19 but other health conditions as well (H1N1, tuberculosis, meningitis, etc.).

9. What if someone in a student or staff member's immediate family is diagnosed? Are all quarantined in that household?

If students or staff come in contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, they should stay at home, contact their medical provider and call Placer County Public Health at (800) 829-7198. Health officials will also notify our school district. If someone must quarantine or isolate, they will be notified by Placer County Public Health.

10. Who will make a decision to close schools?

If there is a public health need to do so, the Placer County Public Health office can order school closures. RUSD in collaboration with Placer County Public Health and the Placer County Office of Education can also decide to close schools. We will also consider guidance from the California Department of Education and CA Department of Health Services.

11. How does a district form an emergency response plan specifically for pandemics?

We work with the Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Public Health professionals to establish protocols for schools and prepare for possible future school disruptions. Specific pandemic response activities will be highly dependent on emerging data and direction provided by health authorities.

To control an epidemic, public health professionals work closely with a range of specialists such as epidemiologists (scientists who study the spread of disease among animal and human populations), medical specialists, virologists and immunologists. Control of epidemics almost always consists of four types of preventative measures-- quarantine, immunization, mass education about prevention and early and aggressive treatment of ill people.