



RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOLS CORPORATION

Mr. Curtis D. Craig
Superintendent

RCSC School Opening FAQ

Several schools are delaying entry. Will RCSC be delaying?	<p>RCSC is planning to start on time with students' first day being Thursday, August 13.</p> <p>By following the guidelines from the Jasper County Health Dept. we increase our chances of being able to keep students in school.</p> <p>Wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing and cleaning have been shown to decrease the spread of illness.</p>
The Governor's order required children 8 and older to wear masks. Why is RCSC requiring all students to wear masks?	The Jasper County Health Dept. requires all students to wear masks. Local authorities have the right to impose stricter guidelines than those included in the Governor's order based on local conditions.
Will temperatures of all students and staff be checked at school?	RCSC has purchased multiple no-contact thermometers. However, it is not feasible to check over 1500 students prior to school.
Who will be considered a 'Close Contact' if there is a positive COVID-19 case?	According to the Centers for Disease control and prevention (CDC), a close contact is a person who spends greater than 15 minutes within six feet of a positive COVID-19 person prior to symptom onset or a positive test.
If a person wears a mask are they still considered a 'Close Contact?'	While mask use decreases the risk of infection, at this time it does not change recommendations for quarantine.
How long is quarantine if identified as a 'Close Contact?'	Quarantine begins 14 days after the date of the last exposure.
What is the difference between quarantine and isolate?	Isolation separates <u>sick people</u> with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who <u>were exposed</u> to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.
Who needs to isolate?	A positive student/staff member with symptoms must isolate at home for 10 days from onset, be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and have a reduction in symptoms.

	A positive student/staff member without symptoms must isolate at home for 10 days after the date the positive specimen was collected.
Who needs to quarantine?	Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms.
What happens if one (1) student tests positive for COVID-19?	Contact tracing is recommended for that student only and close contacts quarantine for 14 days from date of last exposure. For K-2, it may be necessary to quarantine the entire classroom if cohorting was not possible.
What happens if more than one student tests positive in a given classroom?	It is recommended that the entire classroom quarantine for 14 days.
What is the threshold for closing the entire school?	There is no threshold for closing the entire school. If there are widespread positive cases, RCSC will work with the local and state health departments for further recommendations.
What are the recommendations for student/staff interactions?	Teachers should keep at least 6 feet from students during instruction. If one-on-one instruction is necessary, both the student and staff member should wear masks and the interactions should be kept under 15 minutes.
Do siblings of close contacts need to quarantine?	No, unless the sibling is also a close contact by definition.
Can students wear face shields instead of face masks?	The Jasper Co. Health Department has provided guidance that a face mask is preferred but a face shield is an appropriate face covering for a student.
Can teachers wear face shields instead of masks?	The Jasper Co. Health Dept. has provided guidance that face shields do not provide adequate coverage for teachers if they are close to students. However, a face shield is appropriate for teachers if they are six feet away from students.
I've heard some people are looking into lace face coverings. Will those kinds of masks be allowed?	According to the Governor's order, a face covering that covers the 'nose and mouth' is required. A lace mask does not cover nose and mouth.
Do teachers/staff have to wear a face mask when they are in the classroom or office by themselves?	No.
Do teachers have to wear masks when they are at lunch or in the faculty workroom?	Not if they can maintain six feet of social distance.

Can students take off their masks when they are seated at their desks?	The most recent guidance from the Jasper County Health Dept. is for students to wear masks in the classroom for at least the first two weeks.
Do teachers have to wear a face covering if they are seated at their desk and over six feet from students?	Teachers should wear a face covering if they are in a classroom for students. After two weeks, the Jasper Co. Health Dept. will reevaluate.
What are the procedures for recess?	Students should play in cohorts to the greatest extent possible to limit 'Close Contacts.'
What are the procedures for lunch?	Students should not face each other during lunch and maintain social distance to the greatest extent possible. There may be space limitations that restrict RCSC's ability to implement this procedure fully.
Can students sit at a table across from each other?	Students are to sit in rows all facing the same direction to the greatest extent possible. For art, students sit at the same table. The Jasper Co. Health Dept. provided guidance that students should wear masks.
How are students to be given a break from wearing masks?	A 'break' means students are provided an environment where they can be at least six feet apart. A break may taken outside, in the gym or in the auditorium
Is it going to be possible or desirable to keep students spread out all day?	Our goal has always been to provide a safe environment for students in a setting that is as normal as possible. We need to do the best we can to limit contacts, have students wear masks, and provide social distance while allowing students to be kids.
Should teachers go to student desks to assist them?	The recommendation is that teachers maintain six feet of distance from students to limit the number of contacts. Teachers need to document others who would be defined as a contact.
Are face shields required in addition to masks?	There is no requirement to wear a face shield and a mask.
What cleaning procedures have been implemented?	Electrostatic sprayers have been purchased for all buildings and the transportation department. These sprayers increase the efficiency and effectiveness of disinfecting surfaces.

	<p>All classrooms will be disinfected at the end of each day. Elementary classrooms will also be disinfected once during the school day. High School classrooms, restrooms and high touch areas will be disinfected more frequently during the school day.</p>
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