



## RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOLS CORPORATION

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**Mr. Curtis D. Craig**  
Superintendent

RCSC Community:

The first day of school will be on Thursday, August 13, as previously scheduled. Teachers have started the school year and we all look forward to students returning. I have tried to provide current information throughout the summer to keep everyone informed, however, I thought placing procedures, and the basis for procedures, in this letter would be helpful.

### **Wearing of Masks or Facial Coverings**

The Governor, Indiana Department of Health, and the Jasper County Health Department have provided direction on the wearing of masks in schools. In addition, the Rensselaer Central School Board has adopted Policy 8450.01 Protective Facial Coverings During Pandemic/Epidemic Events.

In the Governor's Executive Order 20-37 there are several sections regarding the wearing of masks. Of special importance is Section 7:

***Local Authority: Nothing in this Executive Order prohibits a county, political subdivision, or school corporation from imposing more stringent requirements than this Executive Order.***

For RCSC, the most stringent requirement on the wearing of masks comes from the Jasper County Department of Health.

***"If we don't act now to contain the spread of the virus there is zero chance that the state is going to let us proceed with in-person education down the road. We hope that by starting the school year with more stringent practices, it will be easier to engage student compliance when it is coupled with the natural start of school enthusiasm. We look forward to lessening the restrictions as soon as our data indicates."***

***"With this being said I will still proceed with the mask requirement for all students and anyone entering the building for the first 2 weeks of school. I propose that we meet again after school has been in session to see if students can truly social distance, stay in their seats, and all face forward so we can loosen the rule."***

**-Dr. Marianne Nelson, Jasper County Health Department.**

To meet the requirement of the Jasper County Health Department, the policy of RCSC will be:

**Students are required to follow the directions of the Governor, Indiana Department of Health, and the Jasper County Health Department in regards to the wearing of masks/facial coverings. School Board Policy 8450.01 and the Rensselaer Central Re-Opening plan provides additional information on the requirement for wearing masks and facial coverings. RCSC will follow the most stringent policy from the Governor, State, and Local Health Departments on the wearing of masks.**

For at least the first two weeks of school, RCSC will require students to wear masks on buses and whenever entering the school building according to the direction from the Jasper County Health Department. Specific expectations for each building in the corporation are in the opening procedures for that building.

If a student does not have a mask, a mask will be provided. If a student refuses to wear a mask, that student may be isolated until the parent can be contacted to pick up the student.

### **Water bottles**

Water fountains have been shut off following guidance from the state and local health departments. Water bottle filling stations have been installed in all buildings. Students should bring their own water bottle, with their name on it, which can be filled at one of the stations.

If a student forgets his/her water bottle, a bottle will be provided for them.

### **Daily Monitoring**

Parents/guardians are asked to screen their children daily before sending them to school. If your student has been in direct contact with someone who is being tested for COVID-19, please keep them at home and contact the school for further guidance. Please keep your student home for any of the following known symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever of 100.4 or greater
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing/Shortness of Breath
- Chills/Shaking
- Muscle Pain
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea

More detailed information on monitoring, quarantine and isolation can be found in the RCSC nurses' letter.

I understand this is a challenging time for all concerned. It is important to remember we are following the directions of our elected and public health officials to protect the safety of all.

By following the directions from our state and local officials, we hope for a successful opening and the ability to keep our students in school.

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