

Randolph Public Schools

Stay in School Plan

As of August 31, 2021

Return to School

This document outlines the plan for initially starting the 2021-22 school year and includes a draft of the school's Designated Health Measures (DHM). Plans and decisions will be updated and published as needed. This is an ever-changing situation. Changes will be made based on updated directed health measures and guidance from Nebraska Public Health Departments. Communicating any changes made to this plan will be a priority and will happen in a timely manner.

On Tuesday, Aug. 17th, 2021 the following items will be enacted. If necessary, the need may arise to move to an alternate plan or eLearning at home. Randolph Public Schools will work diligently to communicate changes in schedules/plans.

Educational Procedures

- The decisions to make changes to our educational procedures will be based on several factors, including but not limited to:
 - Relatively low numbers of positive cases within school and the community.
 - Availability of vaccines to eligible students or school staff.
 - Our desire to continue to allow the greatest amount of freedom without creating a higher risk for the transmission of COVID 19 and variant strains.

Safety Measures

- Screening & Symptoms
 - Screening
 - RPS will not universally screen all students and staff everyday for temperature, cough, respiratory issues, and other general feelings of wellness.
 - RPS will make use of screening for staff and students that exhibit symptoms identified by the NNPHD. See [NNPHD Screening and re-admittance protocol 8-17-21](#)
 - The practice of family screening before school everyday is vital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who exhibit any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (or are sick in any way) should not be sent to school. See [parent screening checklist](#).
 - Sending sick students to school is unsafe for that student and for everyone else in the building. In the past, the idea of being able to “tough it out” made sense in certain situations. At this point in time, that thought process is unhealthy and unsafe.

- Classroom Arrangement
 - Social distancing guidelines may still be followed as much as possible while students are in school/classrooms according to teacher discretion.
- Facial Coverings
 - Facemasks are optional for both students and staff.
 - Masks reduce the transmission of COVID if worn properly and of good quality.
 - RPS will continue to provide masks for all students upon request.
 - Students may provide their own facial covering, but it must be school appropriate.
 - [See this link for guidance on universal and correct wearing of masks](#)
- Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing
 - Students and staff are encouraged to continue washing or sanitizing their hands throughout the day. [See this link for CDC recommendations for hand washing.](#)
- Drinking Water
 - Water fountains will be available and can be used for drinking or filling water bottles. Hygiene practices for prevention of any communicable diseases are encouraged while using these fountains.
- Environmental Safety & Cleaning Procedures
 - High-traffic surfaces will be sanitized frequently (door knobs, pushes, handles, automatic openers, light switches, handrails, drinking fountains, tables, chairs, bathroom surfaces, etc.).
 - Our buildings have ventilation systems to ensure a gentle exchange of air when school is in session.
- Visitors
 - Visitors will be permitted.
 - All visitors are encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask when in the building
 - Lunch guests will be allowed but social distancing may be used. Lunch guests will need to contact the office prior to their visit to avoid too many visitors at once.
 - TeamMates mentoring will be allowed to continue. Masks are encouraged. Virtual meetings for this are also a possibility.
 - Parents can still stop in the office with materials for their children but should not go into the hallways/classrooms.

- The list of safety measures above is not all inclusive. Other safety measures will be utilized on a daily basis. All implemented safety measures (listed or not) could be changed or ceased at any point in time. Changes or additions will be communicated as quickly as possible.

Meals

- Regular breakfast and lunch will be served as normal in the high school commons area. Current social distancing and serving practices will continue to meet safety guidelines.
- Grab and go breakfast at the elementary will continue with students eating in the elementary gym.

Transportation

- Masks are encouraged on buses but not required. Weather permitting, a few windows will be kept open to ensure an exchange of air.
- Transportation to lunch for the elementary may be done with 1-2 classes on the same bus.
- Town kids needing transportation at the end of the day to the high school may ride a route bus.

School Activities

- All school sponsored activities will be operational
- RPS will follow the guidelines set forth by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and our local activities conference.
- Current NSAA guidelines and changes to these guidelines can be accessed by visiting the NSAA's website. That web address is <https://nsaahome.org>.
- Events (music concerts, theatrical productions, athletic competitions, etc.):
 - Modifications may be necessary for safety reasons
 - Attendance at these events may be modified:
 - Limiting guests
 - Limiting the number of students that perform / participate
- Traveling to other schools to compete
 - Procedures and protocols will be followed according to the host school's requirements.
 - Refer to the Randolph Public Schools Activities website for the most up to date communication prior to going to the event.

Use of Facilities

Randolph Public Schools reserves the right to limit or eliminate use of District owned facilities by outside groups. This will only be done if necessary.

- The walking track at the High School will continue to be open to the community.
- Fans at activities are encouraged to practice social distancing and masks are optional.

Positive Case / Exposure Response

- It is vital for positive COVID-19 cases to be reported to RPS immediately. Public health will communicate positive COVID-19 cases to school personnel, but that communication is delayed. To keep everyone as safe as possible, families are asked to report positive COVID-19 cases to school personnel immediately.
 - The district will follow the protocol established by the Nebraska Public Health Departments.
 - Maintain privacy and confidentiality
 - Personally identifiable information will not be shared with students, parents, or the general public, but it will be shared with staff members who need that information
 - In an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible, necessary information will be shared with staff, students, and parents
 - Affected students may participate in the educational process remotely if possible.

Vaccinations

The district will work to provide vaccinations to eligible students and school staff who desire them by working through our local health department.

- [See this link for more information on vaccines through NNPHD.](#)

General Health and Well-Being

Having school on site with everyone in the building is a priority. In order for that to happen, everyone must be purposeful about being healthy and keeping each other healthy. That must happen while in the building, but it also must happen while out of the building too. Everyone's effort on this front is vital and greatly appreciated.

During this time, the district will make reasonable health and safety adjustments for appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities.

In the event the threat of pandemic related health concerns escalates, the district will do what it can to ensure continuity of equitable services including the educational, social, emotional and health needs of its students. This could include remote learning / counseling, alternate days of instruction to reduce class sizes, home delivery of meals, etc.

The district will always work to coordinate our efforts within our buildings with State and local health officials. We will implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant CDC guidance. [See this link for more information.](#)

It is important for everyone to be understanding, compassionate, and flexible. RPS staff members want the best for students. Decisions will be made with the best interest of everyone in mind. Those decisions may not be convenient or popular. When this happens, being understanding, compassionate, and flexible will be helpful.