



Rochester City School District

# **BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE FOR RCSD FAMILIES**



Dear Rochester City School District Students and Families,

Welcome back! I am thrilled that we are moving to a hybrid model and our students are returning to school. I have missed having the opportunity to see our students in-person. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students returning to in-person learning. Throughout our reevaluation and planning, two core principles continue to guide our work – the health and safety of our students and staff and the goal of providing a high-quality learning experience to our students. This has been our promise to you all along, and it remains at the forefront of our decision-making.

This in-person learning guide is designed to give students and families the information and resources needed to help ease the transition to in-person learning. While we know how rapidly circumstances can change with COVID-19, the District is prepared to act quickly, with guidance and support from Monroe County health officials.



Thank you for your ongoing support, patience, and flexibility. I can't wait to see our scholars. We are here to support you and will do all that we can to ensure our scholars have the materials and supports necessary to be successful and move our District Forward. Together. Now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lesli C. Myers-Small".

Lesli Myers-Small, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## WELCOME BACK!

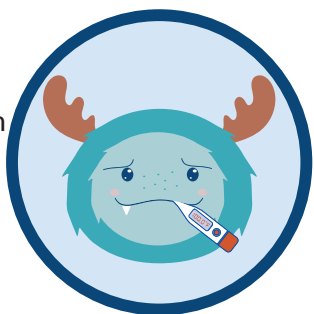
### Preparing for the School Day

Below are some simple steps that families can take to help minimize the spread of COVID-19.

#### Daily Health Screening and Temperature Checks at Home

Every student **should be screened for COVID-19** symptoms before coming to school each day. This includes daily temperature checks. Parents should assess their children daily using the questions below.

1. Have you been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
2. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
3. Do you have a temperature of 100.0°F or higher?
4. Do you have any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, cough, sudden loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches, headache, congestion or a runny nose, diarrhea or vomiting)?



5. Have you traveled internationally or from a restricted state per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days?

If you answer yes to any one of these questions, or if your child has a temperature greater than 100.0°F, you must notify the School Nurse and keep your child home.

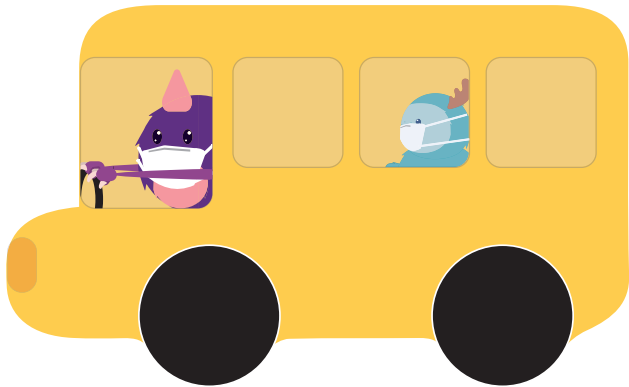
#### Testing in School

When a region moves to the “Orange Zone” under Governor Cuomo’s Cluster Action Initiative, schools are required to test 20% of in-person students and staff for COVID-19 each month. When in the “Red Zone” schools are required to test 30% of in-person students or revert to a fully remote learning model.

As of December 7, 2020, most of our schools are in an orange zone. Enclosed, is a form with options to consent to testing. Students whose parents do not consent to testing can still attend in-person learning, but if a school cannot reach the requirement to test 20% of in-person students and staff in an orange zone status or 30% when in red then that school would have to close. Testing our students not only allows our schools to stay open it also provides us with assurance that our school environment stays safe.

The state is providing us with a shallow nose swab test to use. The tests will be administered by the school health office staff. Our staff have been trained

to administer these tests. You can get your child tested by your personal health care provider, or at any community testing site. In order for those tests to “count” toward the 20% or 30% threshold, results need to be provided to your school nurse within a week. If it is your intention to test offsite, please notify the school and indicate when your child will be tested. Please refer to your child’s school re-opening plan for their specific plans for testing students in their schools.



### Riding the Bus

New safety precautions are in place for transportation. Students and school staff are required to wear acceptable face coverings at all times on school buses and maintain social distancing when entering, exiting, and while seated. Remember to also stay six feet apart and wear face coverings at the bus stop. The number of passengers on buses is limited, and students must sit one student per seat unless from the same household.

Buses are cleaned and disinfected in between each bus run.

### Arriving at School

Each morning when students arrive at school, their temperatures will be taken with either a handheld thermometer or a temperature-screening device. Students who arrive with any COVID-19 symptoms will need to go to a designated room, where they will be supervised by an adult and kept apart from other students. This also applies if students develop any symptoms during the school day. The school nurse will contact parents and guardians, so students can be picked up to go home.

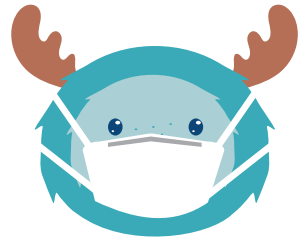
Please make sure your child’s emergency contact information is up-to-date with the school secretary and include someone who is able to pick up your child during the school day if necessary.

## Staying Safe Throughout the Day

When students are in school buildings, the day will look and feel different.

### Face Coverings

Students are required to enter the bus and school with a mask. Face coverings that cover the mouth and nose help to stop your germs from spreading to other people. Although you may not feel sick, you may still have the virus. That is why it is so important for everyone to wear masks or other approved Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



Face coverings are expected to be worn at all times, except to eat breakfast and lunch, and when mask breaks are given. It is important to follow your teacher’s instructions during break times. Students are required to wear a face covering whenever six feet of social distance cannot be maintained. Face coverings are also required in all shared spaces, such as hallways, buses, and restrooms. If a student comes to school without a face covering, a disposable mask will be provided.

### Social Distancing

Social distancing means staying at least six feet away from other people whenever possible. Some activities, like PE and singing, will require twelve feet of social distance to be maintained. Social distancing will be maintained at all times unless safety or core activity requires a shorter distance, or the individuals are of the same household. Students must stay in their assigned seat or area in the classroom.

Where else should you social distance?

On the School Bus

- Keep space between you and others while waiting for the school bus.
- Sit by yourself on the bus, or with someone from your household, facing forward.

In Common Spaces

- Keep space between you and others in the hallways, the main office, restrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Look for floor markings to help you stay six feet apart.
- Keep six feet apart when waiting in line.



## Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use

One of the best ways to keep yourself and others safe is to wash your hands.

You will see hand hygiene stations in all our schools, with signs reminding you to wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer will be provided.



## What happens if a student or staff member becomes ill at school with COVID-19 symptoms?

The staff member will immediately be asked to go home and follow up with their physician. Any students who become ill with COVID-like symptoms will be assessed by the school nurse and separated from others until they can be picked up by a parent. Any student or staff member who has COVID-19 symptoms will be encouraged to be tested and must stay home until they have been seen by a medical professional and have a note indicating an alternative diagnosis or they have evidence of a negative COVID-19 test.

## Eating Meals at School

Meal times may look a little different from previous years, but all schools will serve breakfast and lunch daily.

Cafeterias are set up for social distancing between students while eating. Face coverings can be removed to eat and drink when six feet of space is available, or a physical barrier is in place. Meals may also be served in alternate areas, such as the classroom, or in staggered meal periods. This allows us to ensure proper cleaning and disinfection between students. Handwashing will take place before and after meals. Please refer to your child's school re-opening plan for specific information on eating meals at school and their set up.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting School Buildings

Cleaning and disinfection will take place daily and more often in high-use areas. Deep full disinfection will take place twice per week on Wednesdays and Fridays.

## What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and they have recently been at the school?

If a staff member, student, or visitor tests positive for COVID-19, the District will immediately notify the Monroe County Department of Health. The District will assist the Monroe County Department of Health in all contact tracing efforts by supplying student and staff attendance and location information, student schedules, and visitor logs.

Will all others in that classroom be required to quarantine for 14 days?

That depends on how close the contact has been between the individuals. Close contact is defined as being less than six feet from someone for longer than fifteen minutes without a mask on.

The Monroe County Department of Health would conduct the contact tracing and determine whether individuals would be required to quarantine or isolate.

For more information on the District's Reopening Plan, please visit [www.RCSDK12.org/reopens](http://www.RCSDK12.org/reopens).



## No Visitors

In an effort to keep everyone safe, visitors will not be allowed at this time.

We appreciate your understanding.

