



## Rochester Community Schools

Dear RCS Families,

We value the productive conversations with our families to safely and sensibly address the challenges and requirements that are a result of the current public health crisis. We truly empathize with community frustrations and fatigue and are sorry for any pain families may be experiencing during this difficult time.

Our hope lies in the fact that our country has some of the best medical experts in the world who remain dedicated to providing the care needed to overcome this pandemic. Locally within our school district, our RCS families can be assured that our teachers, administrators, and support staff have that same commitment to ensure all of our students receive the care they need and deserve.

The [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) (MDHHS) provided additional considerations for schools today; however, the current MDHHS emergency order from March 19, 2021 remains unchanged. We continue to work with our public health officials in order to make the most informed decisions for the safety of our community. At this time, RCS intends to continue in-person learning and sporting activities as scheduled with strict mitigation protocols in place, unless otherwise directed by the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD). We will keep our families notified of updates as soon as they are available.

The following are some updates, which include the weekly summary of district COVID-19 trends.

- **RCS 2021-22 Calendar.** Although the calendar is still being finalized, we are providing our community with some key dates to help with planning purposes.
  - Winter break: Dec. 18, 2021 – Jan. 2, 2022. Students return to school on Jan. 3, 2022.
  - Spring break: March 26 – April 3, 2022. Students return to school on April 4, 2022.
- **Board of Education Meeting.** The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, at 7 p.m. This meeting will be held in person at the administration building; it will also be broadcast live on YouTube for those not wishing to attend in person. The date for the next work session has been changed to Monday, April, 26, at 7 p.m.
- **Secondary test scheduling.** The following dates reflect test schedules for grades 6-12.

GRADE	TUESDAY, APRIL 13	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
7	No school all day.	Normal day schedule, class hours 1-3.
8	Regular start time. PSAT test. Dismiss at 12:25 p.m.	Normal day schedule, class hours 1-3.
9	No school all day.	PSAT in morning; class hours 1-3 in afternoon.

10	PSAT in morning. Dismiss at approximately 12:30 p.m.	No school in morning; Classes 1-3 begin at 11:30 a.m.
11	SAT in morning. Dismiss at approximately 12:30 p.m.	Full day. Testing in morning, followed by classes 1-3.
12	No school all day.	No school in morning. Classes 1-3 begin at 11:30 a.m.

- **Technology Services.** If there is a need to return an RCS device, please follow the guidance on our [website](#).
  - Returning Chromebooks/Laptops (and chargers): Seniors will return their devices and chargers during senior checkout at their respective school. All others are asked to [request an appointment](#) to return their device to the administration building.
  - Transferring RCS Google data: Because Google is changing the way they allocate space, it will be even more important for us to disable and delete inactive accounts. Seniors have until August 31, 2021, to transfer data before their account is removed.
- **MDHHS and OCHD updates.** (Reference: [COVID-19 Public Health Frequently Asked Questions](#), page 13.)
  - New direction: Due to increasing case rates and variant spread in Michigan, MDHHS and OCHD have reinstated a standard 14-day quarantine for close contacts of COVID-19 cases. This will remove the option of reducing quarantine to 10 days, effective April 5, 2020.
  - New direction: Fully vaccinated persons who meet the criteria are no longer required to quarantine following an exposure of COVID-19, provided the individual does not have any COVID-19 symptoms. Individuals should keep their COVID-19 vaccination record card to confirm their exemption from quarantine. The immune period begins two weeks after the final vaccination.
  - Existing direction: As a reminder, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 will continue to follow a 10-day isolation period from their onset of symptoms or, in asymptomatic individuals, from when the positive specimen was taken. Individuals who have completed their 10-day isolation period can return to school/work on or after day 11, provided he/she has been fever-free for more than 24 hours with improving symptoms.
- **Mandatory student-athlete testing.** As a reminder, all RCS student-athletes, ages 13-19, must participate in the MDHHS testing program in order to play, regardless of whether they are masked or unmasked and playing a contact or non-contact sport. As we initiated the testing requirement this past week, we encountered a variety of unforeseen circumstances that have necessitated further research and updates to our protocols. We appreciate the support of our students and families as we continue to navigate the complexities associated with student-athlete testing. Unfortunately at this time, even if athletes are fully vaccinated, they are still subject to mandatory COVID-19 testing. We will continue to advocate for our students by providing feedback to MDHHS and the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- **Daily health screener.** In order to continue to support MDHHS and OCHD requirements and keep our community safe, the following question will be added to the daily student health screener: “Are you or anyone in your household awaiting test results from a COVID-19 test?”
- **Optional COVID-19 testing results.** We have been pleased to be able to partner with MDHHS, in coordination with OCHD, to provide a site for optional COVID-19 testing. On Tuesday, April 6, more than 700 tests were administered to the community, which includes 120 confirmatory PCR

tests. The feedback from our community regarding this service has been overwhelmingly positive, and we will continue to keep families updated if additional dates become available.

- **Weekly RCS COVID-19 Reporting.** The following COVID-19 information is from April 8, 2021, at 12 p.m. As a reminder, this chart is reflective of a single point in time and may change at a moment's notice due to the current public health environment. We would also like to share that more than 90 staff members have received further training this past week to assist with contact tracing across the district.

<b>In-person COVID-19 Reporting – April 8, 2021, at 12 p.m.</b>				
<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>Positive and symptomatic cases</b>	<b>Percent of active cases per student population</b>	<b>Quarantine (For those exposed)</b>	<b>Percent of quarantine cases per student population</b>
Grades 0 – 5	60	1.09%	128	2.33%
Grades 6 – 8	46	1.59%	66	2.29%
Grades 9 – 12 and post-high	88	2.07%	115	2.71%
<b>STAFF</b>	<b>Positive and symptomatic cases</b>	<b>Percent of active cases per staff population</b>	<b>Quarantine (For those exposed)</b>	<b>Percent of quarantine cases per staff population</b>
Grades 0 – 5	10	1.45%	8	1.16%
Grades 6 – 8	2	0.82%	9	3.71%
Grades 9 – 12 and post-high	4	0.80%	4	0.80%
Other*	3	0.68%	7	1.59%

\*Other includes: administration, transportation, food services, custodial, and facility operations center

As always, we are grateful for the support of students, staff, families, and community.

Sincerely,  
Debi Fragomeni  
Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

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