



**Rockwood Area School District**

**Phased School Reopening**

**Health and Safety Plan**

**Approved 6/23/2020, Amended 11/23/2020 (Due to  
face covering order issued on July 1, 2020)**

# Health and Safety Plan Summary: Rockwood Area School District

Anticipated Launch Date: September 1, 2020

## Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<p><b>* Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, hallways, and transportation)</b></p>	<p>During the summer months, cleaning and disinfecting of all areas of school buildings, grounds, and buses will be performed. Disinfecting foggers will be used within all areas. These practices will prepare the school environment for a safe return of the students and staff. Cleaning supplies and equipment are being purchased in larger quantities approved by the CDC for disinfecting against the COVID-19 virus. Cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols will be implemented daily in the green phase. Increased cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols will be implemented between class periods, when feasible. When Somerset County is in the Green</p>

Phase, daily protocols will include evening cleaning and regular disinfecting of all classrooms and common areas used during the school day. Additionally, high traffic areas will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. When Somerset County is in the Yellow Phase, cleaning and disinfecting of all classrooms, common areas, and high traffic areas will occur between periods, when feasible. Custodial, teaching, and support staff members will be trained to understand the importance of cleaning, disinfecting, ventilation, and proper hygiene. The training will be provided through the administration, maintenance director, and school nurse. Effectiveness of cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilating will be measured through discussion and observation.

# Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

Requirement(s)

Strategies, Policies and Procedures

**\* Classroom/learning space occupancy that allows for 6 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day, to the maximum extent feasible**

**\* Restricting the use of cafeterias and other congregate settings, and serving meals in alternate settings such as classrooms**

**\* Hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices**

**\* Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs**

**\* Handling sporting activities consistent with the [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#) for recess and physical education classes**

**Limiting the sharing of materials among students**

#### Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols Summary

- Classrooms will be organized in a manner that increases space between students based on age level/grade level, size of the classroom, and available resources.
- Communal spaces such as the cafe, gym, auditorium will be restricted according to grade level purpose of use.
- Staggered class changes as needed and as feasible.
- All students will be educated on the benefits of proper hygiene.
- Handwashing and general information/literature will be posted in hallways, restrooms, and common areas.
- Hand Sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available in each classroom.
- Teachers are encouraged to use outside teaching spaces as appropriate and as feasible.

**Staggering the use of communal spaces and hallways**

**Adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students**

**Limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students**

**Coordinating with local childcare regarding on site care, transportation protocol changes and, when possible, revised hours of operation or modified school-year calendars**

**Other social distancing and safety practices**

- Playgrounds and outdoor facilities will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- District transportation:
  - Bus transportation will be provided to all students.
  - Parents will have the option to drive their child to/from school to reduce bus capacity.
  - Two students per seat (maximum if not from the same family), as feasible.
  - Family members are asked to sit together, with a maximum of three family members per seat.
  - Disinfect all high-touch surfaces on buses at least daily.
- Visitors and volunteers:
  - Are restricted and limited to essential visitors and volunteers and will be required to sign in at the security window. \*If authorized, the visitor will report directly to the location.

- Age and grade level educational approaches/training related to social distancing, personal hygiene and safety protocols will be presented and reviewed with students and staff.
- A COVID 19 handbook will be provided to parents, as well as posted to the Districts' website. Additional information in the handbook will include Flexible instructional days and options for remote learning, should Somerset County go into the red phase.
- Training related to remote learning and student processes for learning during the COVID-19 response will be provided at the beginning of the year by teachers and/or administrators.
- Training outcomes will be measured through participation, observation, and application of content or skills.

Green Phase will include:

- Elementary grade level homerooms will remain with each other throughout the day, except during recess and lunch, at which times social distancing will be reinforced.

Yellow Phase will include: (all Green Phase recommendations apply to the Yellow Phase)

- Student desks and tables will be adjusted to students facing in the same direction.
- Students will move in a traffic pattern that supports health and safety, as feasible and appropriate.
- Communal spaces such as the cafe, gym, and auditorium will be restricted according to grade level purpose of use.
- Lunches may be served in classrooms or other areas that are appropriate.
- Playgrounds and outdoor facilities will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- If school facilities are open to public groups, areas will be

	cleaned prior to use for school purposes
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## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Monitoring students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure</b></li> <li>* <b>Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure</b></li> <li>* <b>Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to school</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Notifying staff, families, and the public of school closures and within-school- year changes in safety protocols</b></p>	<p>The health of students, staff, and others interacting in the school environment will be self-monitored. Parents and guardians will be expected to screen children for symptoms before school each day. Children with symptoms should not be sent on a bus or brought to school. District staff are expected to self screen before leaving for work, and will stay home if ill. If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, parents will be encouraged to report this information to the appropriate school office/nurse. Students, support staff and faculty members will be educated on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If a student , staff, or faculty member exhibits observable signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while in school they will be referred to the school nurse or Health Room Aide in a confidential</p>

manner. The school nurse will determine if a student, staff, or faculty member needs to be quarantined. A quarantine room will be in place for the beginning of the school year. Visitors or volunteers that appear ill will not be able to enter the building. Students and employees should not return to school or work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers. Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow the guidance of local health officials and healthcare providers. The District will communicate with families, staff, and the community using the District's mass communication system and website, as well as daily announcements, bulletin and written correspondence.

## Other Considerations for Students and Staff

**\*\*The Rockwood Area School District will follow the most current Orders issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or Governor. \*Please note this order applies to students, visitors, District employed staff and contracted employees.**

*The Face Covering Order issued on July 1, 2020 summary:*

### **Section 1: Face Coverings Defined**

*"Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. For purposes of this order, a face covering includes a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. "Face coverings" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or be improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. While procedural and surgical masks intended for healthcare providers and first responders meet these requirements, such as N95 respirators, these specialized masks should be reserved for appropriate occupational and health care settings.*

### **Section 2: Face Coverings Required**

*Except as provided in Section 3, individuals are required to wear face coverings if they are:*

- A. outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet from individuals who are not members of their household;*
- B. in any indoor location where members of the public are generally permitted;*
- C. waiting for, riding on, driving, or operating public transportation or paratransit or while in a taxi, private car service or ride-sharing vehicle;*
- D. obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings including, but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank; or*
- E. engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when interacting in-person with any member of the public, working in any space visited by members of the public, working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or*

*distribution to others, working in or walking through common areas, or in any room or enclosed area where other people, except for members of the person's own household or residence, are present when unable to physically distance.*

**Section 3: Exceptions to Face Covering Requirement**

*A. The following are exceptions to the face covering requirement in Section 2:*

- 1. Individuals who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, mental health condition, or disability;*
- 2. Individuals for whom wearing a mask while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;*
- 3. Individuals who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance;*
- 4. Individuals who are under two years of age;*
- 5. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;*

*B. Individuals are not required to show documentation that an exception applies.*

**If the current order as of July 1, 2020 related to face masks expires then RASD will follow the information listed below related to face masks.**

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Protecting students and staff at higher risk for severe illness</li> <li>* Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by all staff</li> <li>* Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by older students (as appropriate)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>**The Rockwood Area School District will follow the most current Orders issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or Governor. *Please note this order applies to students, visitors, District employed staff and contracted employees.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>If the current order as of July 1, 2020 related to face masks expires then RASD will follow the information listed below related to face masks.</u></b></p>
<p><b>Unique safety protocols for students with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals</b></p>	<p>The Rockwood Area School District understands there are different phases in the response to COVID-19. Face coverings may be challenging for students to wear in all-day settings such as school. For this reason, the use of face coverings by students will not be required, but will be supported. Students and their families will be able to determine if the student should wear a face covering. Protective face coverings will be made available for students and staff.</p>
<p><b>Strategic deployment of staff</b></p>	<p>The Rockwood Area School District understands there are different phases in the response to COVID-19. Face coverings may be challenging for students to wear in all-day settings such as school. For this reason, the use of face coverings by students will not be required, but will be supported. Students and their families will be able to determine if the student should wear a face covering. Protective face coverings will be made available for students and staff.</p>

With this in mind, during the Green Phase:

- Use of face coverings by students and staff is not expected, but will be supported.
- Students and staff members may be asked by the school nurse or school administrator to wear a mask in the event the student becomes symptomatic.

If Somerset County would enter the Yellow Phase:

- Use of face coverings by staff will be strongly encouraged when feasible, unless doing so jeopardizes their health.
- Staff members will be expected to wear face coverings, if the individual becomes symptomatic, or if the minimum social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Use of face coverings by students is not required on a routine basis. Face coverings may be challenging for students to wear in all-day settings such as school. For this reason, the use of face

coverings by students will not be required, but will be encouraged and supported.

- Students may be asked by the school nurse or school administrator to wear a mask in the event the student becomes symptomatic.

Special Protocols to protect students and staff at high risk of severe illness will be implemented as needed and feasible.

- Establish and maintain communication with local and state authorities to determine current mitigation levels in the community.
- Implement flexible attendance policies for students and staff.
- Protect employees at higher risk for severe illness by supporting and exploring options for completing work.
- Explore offering duties that minimize higher risk individuals' contact with others.
- Limit all non-essential travel as necessary.

- Determine additional considerations and supports needed for students with disabilities with complex medical needs to ensure the safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students.

Strategic deployment of staff including substitute teachers and staff preparedness for illness response;

Green Phase:

- Flexible scheduling of staff as needed and feasible.
- Use of substitutes to cover teacher absences as feasible. Substitutes educated in COVID-19 procedures.

Yellow Phase:

- Staff will be scheduled to consistent work assignments to limit unnecessary staff-student interactions.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Health & Safety Plan, the Superintendent, and/or his designee, is hereby authorized to adopt more restrictive measures than those set forth in this Health & Safety Plan to ensure the health and safety of the District's students, faculty, administration, and all employees, and for purposes of preventing the spread of any infectious virus or disease. Accordingly, the Superintendent, and/or his designee, is hereby granted interim authority to take all such actions; subject to ratification or modification by the Board, at its next duly advertised and convened public meeting, if, in the opinion of the Solicitor, the Superintendent's action requires Board approval and ratification is required.

## **Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement**

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Rockwood Area School District reviewed and approved the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan on July 21, 2020.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

**Yes 5**

**No 4**

Affirmed on: July 21, 2020



## Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts

Whereas, the commonwealth is experiencing its highest daily case counts since the beginning of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, resulting in increased hospitalizations, nearly 10,000 deaths, and heightened risk to the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians;

Whereas, the Wolf Administration has identified new mitigation efforts, including an attestation process for public school entities that elect to continue in-person instruction for students in counties designated as exhibiting "Substantial" transmission of COVID-19 for two or more consecutive weeks based on a disease incidence rate of 100 or more cases per 100,000 residents and/or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) percent positivity rate of 10 percent or greater;

Whereas, as of November 23, 2020, 59 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties met one or both of these standards;

Whereas, Pennsylvania [recommends that school entities in counties with Substantial disease transmission transition to remote-only instructional models](#);

Whereas, as of November 20, 2020, many public school entities have exercised their local discretion to continue in-person instruction for all or some students;

Whereas, the resurgence of COVID-19 across the nation, region, and commonwealth requires more consistent and intensive implementation of disease mitigation efforts;

Whereas, these mitigation efforts include an attestation process for any public school entity (a "public school entity" is defined as a school district, intermediate unit, charter school, cyber charter school, or a career and technical education center) that elects to continue in-person instruction as of November 30, 2020 while the county in which it is located is under a Substantial disease transmission designation for at least two consecutive weeks; and

Whereas, this attestation process supplements and does not supplant existing public health guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education;

AND NOW, THEREFORE, the president/chair of the school entity's governing board and chief school administrator, in accordance with the Order of the Secretary of Health dated November 24, 2020, entitled [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Public School Entities in Counties with Substantial Community Transmission to Attest to Health and Safety Protocols](#), attest to one of the following (SELECT ONE OPTION):

- All or some of the students within the public school entity are currently receiving in-person instruction and:
1. We have read the [Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#), effective November 18, 2020, including necessary exceptions and [associated guidance](#), and affirm the public school entity is complying and will continue to comply with and enforce the Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania

Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, including necessary exceptions and associated guidance; and

2. We have read and agree to follow [the Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19](#), when cases of COVID-19 occur within the public school entity.

OR

The public school entity has transitioned to a fully remote learning model and will continue to use a fully remote learning model until the county (or counties) in which the public school entity is located is no longer experiencing Substantial disease transmission for two consecutive weeks.

\*\*\* A public school entity in a county with Substantial level of disease transmission that is currently providing a fully remote learning model and that elects to transfer to in-person instruction must resubmit this attestation prior to providing in-person instruction.

Rockwood Area School District

(Name of Public School Entity)

affirms that it has attached this signed Attestation to its Local Health and Safety Plan (the "Plan") in order to reflect provisions above, and that, by doing so, this attestation becomes part of the Plan and has been or will be fully implemented by November 30, 2020, or three business days after the county in which the public school entity is located has been designated as exhibiting Substantial disease transmission for the first time, should the public school entity in a county with Substantial level of disease transmission for two or more consecutive weeks elect to offer or continue offering in-person instruction for all or some students; and

Further, the Local Health and Safety Plan, inclusive of this attestation, has been posted on the public school entity's publicly accessible website and filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Education by email submission at [RA-EDCONTINUITYOFED@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EDCONTINUITYOFED@pa.gov).

Signed:



(Signature of Governing Board President/Chair)



(Signature of Chief School Administrator)

President, Governing Board

Chair, Governing Board

Irvin Kimmel Jr.

(Printed Name of Governing Board President/Chair)

Chief School Administrator

Mark R. Bower

(Printed Name of Chief School Administrator)

Date Signed:

11/25/2020

Date Signed:

11/25/2020