

# RBS - Return to School - 1/18/22

Important Need to Know ...

## From The Executive Director

January 17, 2022

Dear Parents,

We thank you for your patience and understanding over the last two weeks. We know that remote instruction is a significant challenge for many families and rest assured that we make every effort to keep students and staff on-site. Unfortunately, there are times when we have no choice but to close a class or the entire school for a period of time to ensure the safety and well-being of all in our school community.

As we prepare to return tomorrow, please know that all of our prior COVID-19 mitigation efforts remain in effect. Parents can be assured that the following efforts continue to be in place:

- Class cohorts are maintained to minimize the possibility of exposure
- Staff are masked at all times in the building and temperatures are checked upon arrival
- Our HVAC system includes HEPA filtration and UV lighting and the HVAC system is on a continuous-run mode to support filtered air exchange at all times
- A dedicated cleaner is on-site all day to clean and sanitize high-touch areas
- Students are monitored for frequent hand washing and staff frequently sanitize surface areas throughout the day
- Outdoor learning spaces are available and utilized when weather permits
- Our daily *Realtime* student health screener is required on all school days
- Social distancing guidelines are maintained to the extent possible throughout the day
- All staff have access to a variety of PPE (gloves, masks, face shields, etc.) and clear student desk partitions are available for all classrooms
- Students or staff who exhibit symptoms during the day are isolated and sent home
- As mandated by the Governor's Executive Order, all staff are vaccinated or submit to weekly testing

**Additionally, we want to update you on the steps we have taken during this most recent closure and implore your assistance in helping us keep school open for on-site instruction for the remainder of**

the 2021-22 school year.

- In addition to daily cleaning, two separate deep cleanings of the school have been completed. Every room in the school has had all surfaces cleaned and sanitized.
- Our existing HEPA filters have been replaced in all HVAC units.
- All UV lighting elements within our HVAC system have been checked.
- **A medical grade mask will now be mandated for all staff and students (unless they have a medical exemption) until further notice. RBS will provide your child with a new mask each day upon arrival to school.**
- Parents must provide proof of their child's COVID-19 vaccination status to the RBS Health Office. This will assist the Health Office in determining required quarantine time frames.

**In spite of these steps, we will continue to be at-risk for transmission of COVID-19 unless we have the cooperation and help of all families. Parents are asked to monitor all household members for signs of illness consistent with COVID-19, or any other transmissible illness, and keep children home from school when sick.**

The CDC made recommendations to reduce quarantine times in December, and while many districts have adopted the recommendations as is, **Rock Brook will continue to take a more restrictive and cautious approach regarding school exclusions.** We serve a large number of medically fragile students and protecting the health and safety of our students is our highest priority. Our revised guidelines include input from staff, parents, physicians, our local health department, the NJ Department of Health, the NJ Department of Education, and numerous school leaders and nurses from within ASAH (our association for special needs schools in NJ).

**Please take time to review our newest COVID-19 school exclusion guidelines (See link below in the section entitled *From the RBS Health Office*).**

Should you have questions regarding any of our health policies and protocols, please reach out directly to our health office via [nurse@rock-brook.org](mailto:nurse@rock-brook.org)

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

**Glenn Famous**

Executive Director

[glenn.famous@rock-brook.org](mailto:glenn.famous@rock-brook.org)

## **From the RBS Health Office**

We look forward to your cooperation and support during these most challenging times. All parents are urged to keep children home when they observe any symptoms of illness, COVID or not. As a general reminder, parents **must** complete the daily health screener via *Realtime* for their child every school day. Please complete the screener **prior** to your child leaving the house. Students arriving at school without a completed screening will be isolated until the *Realtime* daily screener is completed. Please note that RBS staff will continue to take students' temperatures upon arrival to school and students found to be symptomatic after arrival to school will be isolated and may be required to test. Depending on an evaluation made by the health office your child may need to be picked up from school.

We have spent the last two weeks reviewing the almost daily updates and recommendations from the NJ Department of Health and the NJ Department of Education that have followed the newest CDC guidelines for quarantine periods and school exclusions. **The following link will take you to the protocols we will follow moving forward. Please review the guidelines carefully and reach out with any questions.**

[RBS COVID-19 Protocols for Students 1-18-22](#)

Finally, please keep the RBS Health Office informed of any and all illnesses and/or symptoms that your child develops, including non-COVID-19 illnesses. You may use [nurse@rock-brook.org](mailto:nurse@rock-brook.org) to email information or you may call 908-431-9500, ext.115 to talk to the nurse that is at school that day. We thank you for this critical partnership as we strive to keep our school open.

*NurseCarolynn Sasso, CSN, BSN, RN*

*NurseKatie Mitchell, BSN, RN*

*NurseWhitney Liu, BSN, RN*

*NurseSade Harris, BSN, RN*

## Daily Health Screener:

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Please continue to log-in to the [Realtime Parent Portal](#) to complete the daily health screener each day before your child leaves the house. Please feel free to contact [Carla Baron](#) with any questions or concerns.

## Daily Absences:

All student absences must be reported to the front office, either by phone or email, on a daily basis. 908-431-9500 ext. 111 or [carla.baron@rock-brook.org](mailto:carla.baron@rock-brook.org)



## Rock Brook School

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