



Rock Brook School

Updated COVID-19 Protocols

Effective September 1, 2022

As COVID-19 begins a transition from a pandemic to endemic status, schools across New Jersey and the country have begun a focus on full-time uninterrupted on-site instruction. Please know that the COVID-19 vaccination, including booster doses for those eligible, remains the most critical strategy to prevent severe illness, protect students and staff, and reduce interruptions to on-site learning.

To prevent and mitigate the virus, the health and safety protocols developed during the pandemic will be continued. At Rock Brook this means that parents can be assured of the following:

- We have a generous stock of PPE and all staff have easy access to gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, and a variety of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Our HVAC system includes HEPA filtration and UV lighting
- A dedicated cleaner is on-site all day to clean and sanitize high-touch areas
- Students are monitored for frequent hand-washing/hand-sanitizing
- Weather permitting, outdoor learning is highly encouraged
- Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be sent to the nurse's office for an assessment and will be sent home if needed

We continue to urge parents to keep children home when they observe symptoms and wait for negative test results before allowing a child to return to school. If ever in doubt, please reach out to our nurse (nurse@rock-brook.org) for guidance before sending your child to school.

WHILE AT HOME:

Parents should screen their children daily and keep sick children home. Contact the health office by calling (908) 431-9500 x115 or by emailing nurse@rock-brook.org if you have any questions regarding whether or not you should send your child to school.

Regardless of vaccination or previous infection status, if a student experiences two or more COVID compatible symptoms, they should be isolated from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID, and tested. Students may not return to school without proof of negative Covid testing provided to the school nurse. Testing can be performed by a lab, physician's office, or two home tests separated by 48 hours. If done via home testing, time-stamped photos of results must be shared with the RBS Health Office.

WHILE AT SCHOOL:

Students with the following COVID-19 compatible symptoms will be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;

OR

- At least one of the following symptoms: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

If one of the preceding criteria has been determined, then the following **School Protocols and Expectations for Parents will be in effect:**

- Parents/emergency contacts will be called to pick-up the child. It is expected that your child will be picked up from the school within 30 minutes to limit further exposure to staff/students.
- Upon arrival parents or emergency contact will have the option to test your child on-site with a school provided home test and under the supervision of our school nurse. Please note that, even if testing negative, the student must still leave school and remain home due to identified symptoms.
- Individuals who test positive, regardless of vaccination status, and individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider should:
- Stay home for at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0; AND
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can return to school

AND:

- Wear a mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days. Time without a mask being worn should be kept to a minimum.

Quarantine Guidelines:

Quarantine is no longer needed for asymptomatic, exposed individuals. The student should monitor for symptoms and wear a mask for 10 days. **Household contacts** can come to school, regardless of vaccination status, *if they have no symptoms or a single permissible symptom* (as determined by the school nurse) but must be able to mask appropriately for 10 days.

Masking:

Students and staff may choose to wear a mask at any time, but it is not required when the weekly Somerset County report is *low* or *medium*. If the weekly NJDOH surveillance report moves to *high* for Somerset County, masking will become mandatory at that time for all staff and students. As always, school outbreaks or new variants of concern may necessitate more stringent disease control strategies.

Note: The weekly NJDOH COVID-19 surveillance report is accessible by typing the following web address into your browser: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/> or by clicking the link below:

[NJDOH Weekly Surveillance Reports](#)

Alerts and Contact Tracing:

In lieu of individual contact tracing, schools will provide specific cohort notifications (classroom, cohort, team) and all RBS families will be notified electronically via our regular COVID-19 Parent Alert newsletter. These notifications will allow individuals and families to take additional precautions according to their individual needs.

Thank you in advance for abiding by these important health and safety guidelines so that we can promote a safe and healthy learning environment. If you have additional questions or concerns regarding these guidelines, please reach out to our Health Office to speak with one of our nurses.

RBS Health Office Contact Information:

Email: nurse@rock-brook.org

Phone: 908-431-9500 X115