



# Randolph Central School

## School Opening Guidance for 2021-2022

*The Randolph Central School District has developed the following simple guidelines to be followed as school reopens. These guidelines were developed using CDC & NYSED Health and Safety Guidance and in communication with the Cattaraugus County Department of Health and regional education leaders.*

- School will be in session 5 days a week following our traditional schedule.
- Busses will run at full capacity with assigned seats and universal masking.
- Classrooms will provide 3-6 ft. of social distancing whenever possible.
- As per NYSDOH order, Students will adhere to universal masking mandates. Masks will be worn inside the building whenever 6ft of social distancing cannot be guaranteed. This will be at the discretion of school staff based on contact tracing guidelines and localized rates of infection.
- Students will be provided opportunities throughout the day for mask breaks.
- Masks will not be worn when students are outside and appropriately distanced.
- Sports, extra and co-curricular activities will take place.
- Recommendation will be that athletes adhere to universal masking at all times to avoid quarantine and disruption to team schedule.
- We will educate our school community regarding prevention measures.
- We will continue to remain flexible and alter this plan periodically based on anticipated guidance from the NYSDOH, localized infection rates, updated CDC guidance, and department of health contact tracing protocols.

### Resources:

NYSED Back to School Guidance:

<http://www.nysed.gov/back-to-school>

CDC k-12 Guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

## FAQ's:

### **If a student or staff member is vaccinated, do they still need to wear a mask indoors?**

Yes, proper mask wearing is expected for all staff and students when physical distancing cannot be maintained. There are no masking requirements outdoors. The above measures do not discern between those who are and are not vaccinated and will apply to all. Since we are not privy to COVID vaccination records—and even if we were—managing a different set of rules for each would prove to be unattainable. The health and safety measures we are putting in place will apply to everyone regardless of their vaccination status.

### **Will there be a daily health screening?**

No. Unless directed by the NYSDOH or required by the CDC.

### **Will there be a 100% remote or hybrid program offered?**

No. Our commitment is to get students back to school five days a week. Universal masking and physical distancing will help us remain open, even if there is a community increase in COVID cases. Students who arrive without a mask will be provided with one.

### **What happens to learning if a student has COVID-19, is isolated, or quarantined when school is in session?**

RCS teachers have discretion on how best to support students through an extended illness. Staff have been dealing with extended illness long before COVID-19. Parents are encouraged to work with the school nurse to communicate how your child is faring during this time.

### **Will students be socially distanced at 6 feet in the classroom?**

Whenever possible however, students can be safe at 3 feet apart in class if they are masked.

### **Will students be required to eat in classrooms?**

Possibly. Each lunch table would become a cohort—which would be subject to quarantine if there is an exposure. As such, in some instances eating in the classroom may be required. At this point, we intend to use the cafeteria, take attendance daily to assist with contact tracing, and encourage students to go outside whenever possible.

### **What are the plans for busing?**

RCS will operate the fleet as we have done in the past. Masks will be required, windows will be open to increase air flow (weather permitting), and frequent sanitizing will be continued.

### **Will the District be mandating vaccination for employees or students?**

Masks will be required for all staff while indoors and within six feet of students. Vaccination is not required at this time.

### **Will school assemblies happen?**

Yes, we are planning to have school assemblies and open houses, etc. this school year. All visitors will need to follow our masking and distancing policy.

### **Will there be sports?**

Yes, sports will happen under guidance provided by NYSPHAA and indoor spectator attendance could be limited based depending on local transmission rates.

### **Will students have access to lockers?**

Yes.

### **Are students required to bring devices to their classes and home on a daily basis?**

Yes, students should bring their charged device to and from school each day whenever possible where applicable.

### **What is the plan if schools have to close again?**

If we are required to close by New York State, we will be prepared to shift to a fully online/at-home environment at a day's notice.

### **Who determines quarantine and isolation status?**

Similar to last year, the school district cooperates with county department of health school contact tracers who investigate and make such determinations. The school district is required by health law to follow these determinations.

### **Will the District continue to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students this year?**

Yes. All students are eligible for free meals this school year regardless of economic status. To remain current with federal guidelines we do ask families to complete the free and reduced lunch form so that reimbursements may continue into the future.

### **Will students who have cold-like symptoms be required to be evaluated by a doctor and show proof of a negative COVID test to return to school?**

The return to school protocols are no longer in effect at this time. However, symptomatic individuals should be evaluated by nursing staff or their primary care provider to assess need for a test or care. If a student, teacher, faculty/staff member does have a COVID-19 test, they must remain at home until they receive their test results, symptoms improve, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours. If we send an individual home due to being symptomatic, they must talk with their primary care provider and/or seek COVID-19 testing. We are able to test students on-site and are able to provide rapid test results to keep students, teachers, faculty, and staff in school. Test results are simply a snapshot in time and a negative person today may be positive tomorrow depending on exposure windows.