



## UPDATED COVID-19 MITIGATION & SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR 2021-2022

<b>MASKS</b>	Masks are optional for students and staff inside schools and administrative buildings and on school buses. Students and staff who want to continue to wear masks to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 may do so. The district will not tolerate harassment of anyone who chooses to wear a mask or not wear a mask. Masks may be required in health rooms or other designated health care areas. Masks will be required for days 6-10 of the isolation period for students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and return to school/work after 5 days of isolation. Masks also will be required when there is a school outbreak as defined by the CDC.
<b>SOCIAL DISTANCING</b>	At least 3 feet of social distancing will be maintained in classrooms and other areas where possible and to the greatest extent possible. Plexiglass desk shields may continue to be used in classrooms.
<b>VISITORS</b>	Visitors will be allowed inside schools only to handle urgent/critical matters. In those instances, visitors (including parents and vendors making deliveries) will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. Conferences with parents (including IEP meetings) may be held in person or virtually, based upon parent requests. Any in-person parent conferences will be held in designated locations where social distancing and other safety protocols can be followed.
<b>CLEANING &amp; DISINFECTION</b>	Classrooms have been supplied with hands-free towel dispensers, touchless hand sanitizer stations and disinfectant wipes. Cleaning and disinfection procedures will continue to be based on CDC guidelines with emphasis on sanitizing frequently touched surfaces. Electrostatic disinfection also will be utilized to supplement the disinfection process, as needed.
<b>HVAC/ AIR QUALITY</b>	All HVAC units are being serviced to maximize air quality, including appropriate filter upgrades. Ionization technology is being utilized in HVAC units to enhance the filtration capabilities in all classrooms across the district. Nursing stations and isolation rooms have been equipped with HEPA-rated air purification units to improve filtration and air quality for occupants.
<b>MEALS</b>	The district's Nutrition Services team will work with schools to determine the best plan for student meal service, including whether students will eat meals in the cafeteria or in their classrooms. Outside food delivery to students is not allowed.
<b>AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS</b>	Afterschool programs, including child care programs, will operate and follow established safety protocols. External (non-district) staff will be required to wear masks.
<b>VACCINATIONS</b>	The district encourages students, staff and everyone else who is eligible to be vaccinated (ages 5 and up) to get vaccinated to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and in our community. Those who meet the criteria for the booster shot (ages 18 and up) are encouraged to receive the booster.
<b>QUARANTINES</b>	Students and staff who are not fully/maximally vaccinated and are identified as close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases will be required to quarantine for 5 days. Fully/maximally vaccinated students and staff who are identified as close contacts and have received the required vaccination series will not be required to quarantine unless they have COVID-19 symptoms. In order to be exempted from quarantining, parents will be asked to provide proof that students have been fully vaccinated and staff will be asked to provide proof that they have been maximally vaccinated. There may be other scenarios in which students and staff may or may not have to quarantine, unless they have COVID-19 symptoms. Go to <a href="http://www.richlandone.org/RestartStrong">www.richlandone.org/RestartStrong</a> for more details.

*Revised 3/11/2022*

**NOTE: Parents who have questions not addressed above should refer to the FAQ (frequently asked questions) at [www.richlandone.org/RestartStrong](http://www.richlandone.org/RestartStrong) or contact their child's school.**