

RPCNS COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies for the 2021-22 School Year

- During school operational hours only staff, approved co-ops, their enrolled child and sibling using the nursery will be allowed in our school building, in order to reduce exposure,
 - Tours of our school will be conducted either virtually or when our enrolled program is not in session.
- Daily Temper Checks and Health Screenings (the questions will be provided separately) will be conducted before the enrolled children enter the school/playground.
 - Check-in will be done at the playground gate for all classes.
 - In case of inclement weather check-in will be done in the hallway outside the school's Office.
 - *Before Care* drop-off will be done inside by the school's Office.
- Masks are to be worn by all staff and children 2 years of age and older
 - We encourage you to help your child practice wearing a mask, and how to put it on and take it off (by the ear loops)
 - We're requesting that you send your child in with at least 3 masks each class day (one that they're wearing and 2 back-up masks)
 - Please know that if your child is having difficulty wearing a mask or keeping it on, that we will help your child to put it back on. If your child is really struggling with mask wearing then we will definitely employ the 6 feet social distancing in an effort to keep the others safe.
 - Exceptions to mask wearing:
 - Excessive heat while on the playground
 - Vigorous exercise while on the playground, such as running.
- 20 second thorough Hand Washing will be done at the beginning of the school day, and during the school day, supervised by a staff member
- Staff will be attentive to any physical symptoms (fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea/vomiting, severe headache, loss of taste/smell) that may arise during the course of the child's time at school, and will take the appropriate steps as outlined by MSDE and the Health Department. (A runny nose alone is not a symptom of COVID-19, however if the discharge is cloudy, yellow or green in color it is indicative of an infection, and the child should NOT attend school, and should be seen by a pediatrician.)
 - If a child becomes ill or injured during the course of the school day
 - the parent will be contacted and is expected to pick up their child as quickly as possible;
 - the child will be isolated from the other children in their class if they are ill;
 - the other parents in that class will be notified if the child was ill.
 - We request every member parent also include an emergency contact that is not a family member. If the emergency contact you provided on your child's emergency card is not available on a school day please notify your child's teacher in writing of an emergency contact who is available. Please know that you can update the emergency contact information at any time, it's really important to keep it current and accurate.
- Toys/"Lovies" from home will NOT be allowed at school at this time in an effort to reduce cross contamination.

- If a child really needs a special toy from home here at school, then it needs to stay at school and not go back and forth between home and school.
- We are requesting that “Chewelry” (a sensory oral manipulative, in other words a chewy object frequently worn on a necklace by a child who is likely to chew on their shirt collar or hair) are not to be used by your child while at RPCNS. If this is a significant issue, please your child’s teacher and the director.
- Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (light switches, door knobs, faucet handles, etc.) will be done
 - Toys/manipulatives, etc. will be cleaned per CDC guidelines, using CDC approved cleaning products.
- Each class will spend approximately half of the school day outside, and there will be only one class on the playground at a time.
- When inside the school, we’ll provide well ventilated interior spaces (using a combination of open windows, doors and/or air purifiers)
- Social Distancing will be practiced, especially when masks are removed for eating/drinking
- Since eating requires the removal of one’s mask, snack will be eaten outside in our playground
 - Children will bring their own towel (to sit on during snack/lunch), snack, water bottles
 - If a child is staying for *After Care* or an *Extended Day Program*, lunch will be eaten in a well ventilated, socially distant space.
 - If there’s inclement weather, then eating will be done inside in a location determined by the teacher, with the children socially distant.
- All staff have completed the MSDE mandated COVID-19 Training course, in addition to all the other regulatory requirements
- All our staff are vaccinated
- We will follow MSDE’s most recent decision matrix and the Montgomery County Health Department’s directives with regards to how to handle illness, quarantining, isolation and/or school closing.
- We will be reassessing the situation with regards to this pandemic and the expected seasonal changes, making any necessary adjustments to these mitigation strategies and keeping you, the parent member informed.
- Non-class folks who are part of our larger community here at RPCNS:
 - Corie Reuschlein CCC-SLP, uses room 112 (which does not have a class meeting in it this year) for her immune-compromised, non-RPCNS school-aged, speech clients on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons;
 - “Miss Gina”, our Music teacher, is doing *Music Time for Tots* here on Wednesday morning in our Music classroom, some of our parent members have enrolled with their younger child;
 - Megan Coate, Pediatric Occupational Therapist and former parent member, will be running her *Wee Ones* program on Monday mornings starting in mid-October; some of our parent members have enrolled their younger child.