



REOPENING
2020-2021

Return to Campus Guidebook for Families

*Updated December 2020

www.rockdaleschools.org/reopening



Introduction

The health and safety of students and staff remain the top priority of Rockdale County Public Schools as we transition back to school buildings using a hybrid model for teaching and learning. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 data in our community and will make changes, as necessary. We believe that closely following the recommended guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale (GNR) regional public health department will reduce the spread of illness. However, it will take the efforts of all parents, students, staff, and community members to wear a mask or face covering, wash hands frequently, and watch your distance by keeping at least 6 feet apart. Together, we will stay healthy and thrive!



Mask/Face Covering

A mask or face covering must be worn while on the bus, in common areas of the buildings, in classrooms, and whenever social distancing cannot be reasonably maintained. **Two warnings for mask violations will result in a virtual learning placement.**



Hand Sanitizer Stations

Self-serve hand sanitizing stations will be placed on buses and in high traffic areas in all schools and offices.



Personal Health

All students and staff are expected to stay home when sick. Schools and offices will follow all recommended guidelines from public health to reduce the spread of all illness.



Social Distancing

Whenever possible, social distancing of staying at least 6 feet apart will be maintained.



Same Direction

Whenever possible, traffic patterns in schools will be altered for one-way traffic in hallways and common areas, especially during transitions. Student desks and tables will also face the same direction in classrooms and common spaces when feasible.



Signage

Appropriate signage will be placed throughout campus to remind students and staff of health and safety protocols.



Cleaning

Cleaning protocols will be adjusted as needed to follow all recommendations from public health.

Daily Operations

- Schedules will be a hybrid model to reduce the number of students on campus at one time.
- Students are required to remain in their chosen learner option for the designated period of time (grades K-8 for 9 weeks; grades 6-12 for 18 weeks); RCPS has an appellate process for parents who wish to change their student's option from virtual to hybrid prior to the end of the designated period of time.
- No in-person attendance at schools on Fridays for staff or students (Fridays are devoted to a wide range of support services).
- Unauthorized visitors will not be allowed on campus.
- No field trips will be permitted.
- Face coverings shall be worn in all common areas such as hallways, restrooms, and buses. Students and staff will provide their own face coverings that adhere to the district's dress code. **Two warnings for mask violations will result in a virtual learning placement.**
- There will be no large assemblies or gatherings in common spaces.
- Students will be expected to go directly to their classrooms upon entering the building.
- Students will not be allowed to gather in parking lots, bus lanes, car rider lanes, etc.
- Hallway traffic patterns will be adjusted for one-way movement whenever possible.
- Traditional water fountains will be disabled. The bottle refill fountain will be operational. Students may bring a refillable water bottle or may purchase bottled water from machines within the building (middle and high schools).
- Plexiglass barriers will be used at front entrances, front offices, cafeterias, and other areas with frequent person-to-person interactions.
- Recess for elementary students will be allowed outdoors, however, students may not gather in large groups and some equipment may be limited.
- Middle and high school students will not change clothes for P.E.
- Lockers will not be available for use.



Classrooms

- With the hybrid model, student numbers will be reduced to maintain social distancing in the classroom.
- When possible, classrooms will be configured to maintain social distancing with all students facing the same direction. Clear desk barriers may be used in some classrooms.
- Students should use their own school supplies.
- Classrooms will be equipped with approved cleaning supplies to use on high-touch surfaces throughout the day such as doorknobs, interactive boards, tables, desks, etc.
- Face coverings shall be worn in the classroom along with social distancing to maximize safety for students and teachers.
- Mask-down zones and times will be determined by local schools for activities such as eating/drinking, physical activity, or certain instruction settings.
- **Two warnings for mask violations will result in a virtual learning placement.**
- Students will be given frequent handwashing breaks throughout the day in addition to access to hand sanitizer stations on campus.



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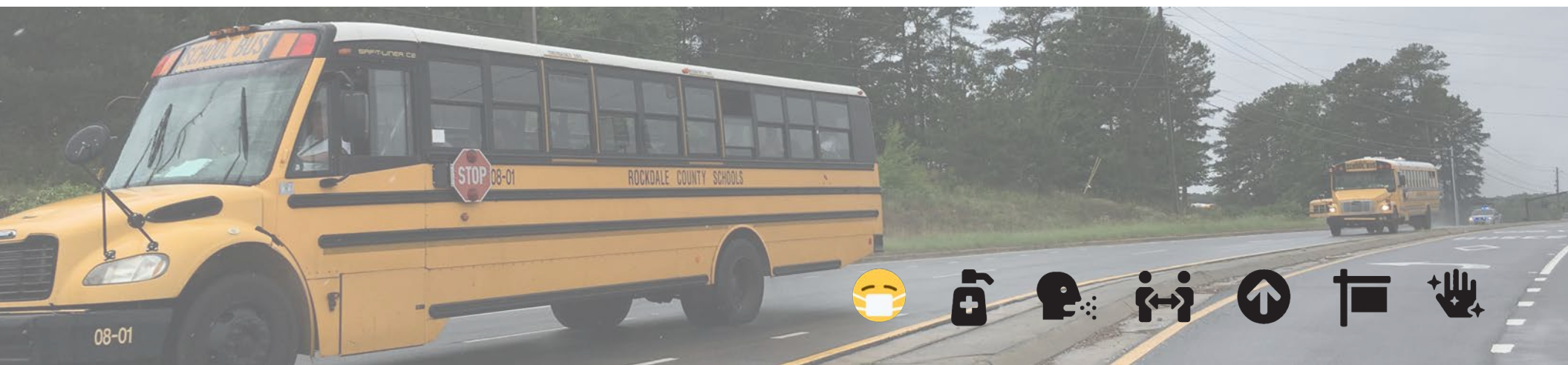


Transportation

- Students, drivers and monitors are expected to wear a face covering at all times on the bus.
- Routes will have reduced numbers to maintain social distancing when possible. Students living in the same household will be required to share a seat on the bus.
- Students will be asked to face the front at all times and will not be allowed to share any items with other students while riding the bus.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be provided on each bus.
- When possible, windows or ventilation will be opened to increase air flow inside the bus during routes.
- Buses will be sanitized between routes.

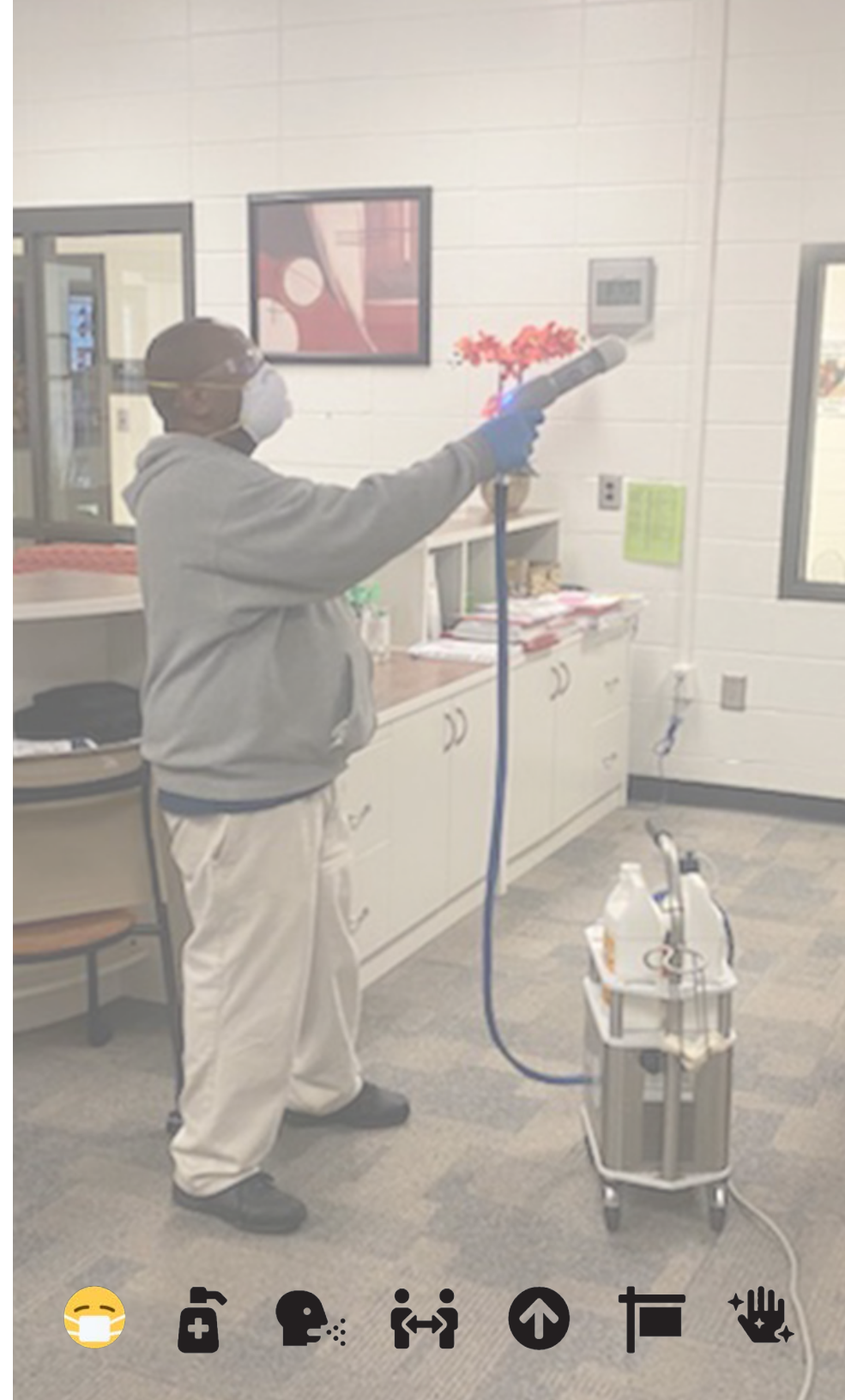
School Meals

- Students will pick up their meals in the cafeteria and return to the classroom to eat.
- Cashiers will have a plexiglass barrier between them and students.
- All safety and sanitization procedures will be followed.
- Masks shall be worn by all in the cafeteria.



Cleaning Protocols

- Custodial services will follow all cleaning protocols recommended by the CDC and the local health department.
- Nightly deep cleaning will occur at all schools.
- High touch points such as doorway areas, tables, hallway walls, restroom areas, and others will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Restrooms will be checked, and touch points cleaned hourly.
- Clorox 360 or similar cleaning machines will be deployed in all main traffic areas nightly upon return and will service all schools thoroughly on a weekly basis. Machines will be immediately deployed to areas that may be compromised by reported illness.
- Teachers and staff will have approved cleaning supplies to help clean high touch surfaces throughout the day in classroom and office spaces.



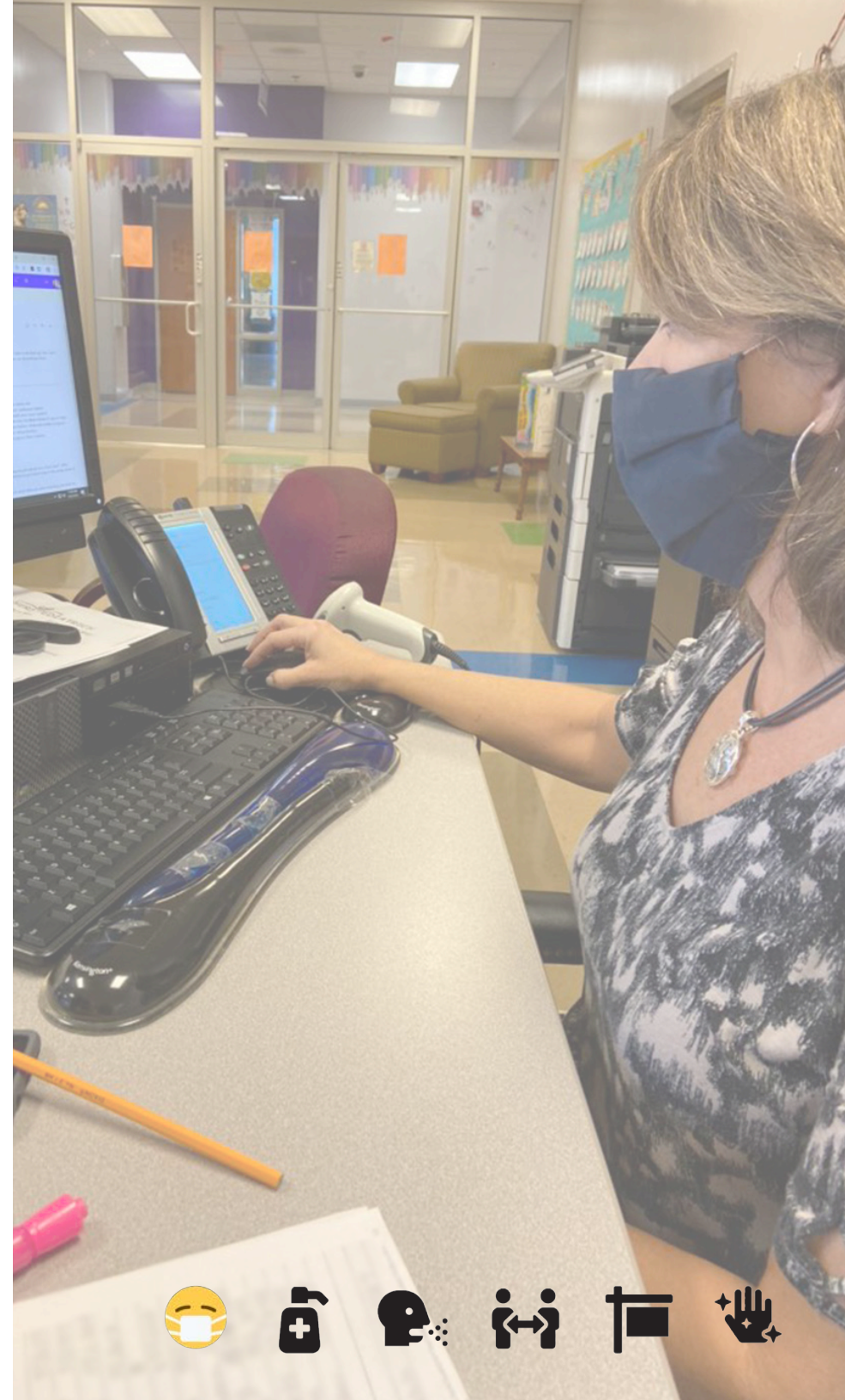
Personal Health

- Parents must monitor the health of their children and keep sick children at home. This includes checking your student's temperature and monitoring for other possible symptoms of COVID-19 daily.
- Staff must monitor their own health and stay home when sick.
- For description of COVID-19 symptoms, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 (symptomatic or asymptomatic) must remain at home for the length of time recommended by the Public Health Department.
- Clinic Aides will be trained to identify the symptoms of COVID-19 and will immediately isolate students with these symptoms. Parents will be required to pick up sick children immediately from school. In the event a parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact for the student will be called.
- Reliable COVID-19 information and resources can be found on the following websites: www.cdc.gov and www.gnrhealth.com
- Parents, students, staff, and visitors shall not enter any RCPS building with symptoms of COVID-19, having been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or having tested positive for COVID-19 without the appropriate isolation period. Anyone who knowingly violates this protocol may be subject to disciplinary action.



Notification

- The district and schools will follow the required protocols for reporting positive COVID-19 cases to the Public Health Department.
- Parents and staff must report positive cases to the school upon receiving test results.
- Parents and staff must report suspected positive cases due to symptoms of COVID-19.
- Parents and staff will be personally notified in the event of student or staff exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 resulting in a period of quarantine.
- New positive case counts by school will be reported on the district website weekly at www.rockdaleschools.org/covid19tracking



Thank you for following these protocols!
#RCPSWorldClass #RCPSReopening #InThisTogether



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