



2023-2024

COVID-19 Quick Guide



Many schools serve children who may not be fully vaccinated. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies to protect people who are both vaccinated and not fully vaccinated.

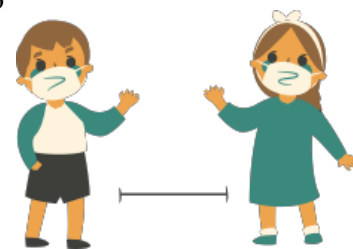
Vaccines

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.

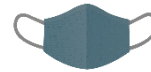


Hand Hygiene

Ensure students and staff wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. This is also recommended to be done after touching or removing masks.



Face Mask



Wearing a mask is optional in the RCSS. Per CDC guidelines, people age 2 or older are advised to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask when in an area with a high COVID-19 Community Level. High-quality masks are also recommended if you are (1) sick and need to be around others, (2) are caring for someone who has COVID-19 and/or you are at increased risk for severe illness, (3) live with or spend time with someone at higher risk, or (4) have been exposed to a positive individual. In the event you find out you were exposed to a positive case, it is recommended to wear a mask for 10 full days following your last exposure.

Physical Distancing

When possible, maintain at least 3-6 feet of physical distance between students and staff within classrooms, or any school setting to reduce transmission risks.

Layered Prevention

At-home screening, ventilation, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing when needed in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe. COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect those who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels. Localities will monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.

As of May 11th, 2023, the CDC added the following recommendation:

Fully vaccinated people are recommended to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. To find your community transmission level, visit

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Findex.html

Students, teachers, and staff are encouraged to stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. It is critical that school administration is notified for each student as well as employees once a possible infection occurs.

School Administration / Department Leaders and the RCSS COVID-19 Taskforce should be notified immediately for all student and employee confirmed positive cases.

SB 514-Unmask Georgia Students Act: The act prohibits any local board of education, local school superintendent, governing body of a charter school or state charter school, or any personnel while acting within the scope of their employment in such schools from making or enforcing any rule that requires a student to wear a face mask or covering while at school or on school property unless the rule lets the parent exempt his or her student from the mandate. The parent cannot be required to provide a reason or any certification about the child's health or education status.

Isolation for Positive Cases

All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate 5 days. Isolation keeps someone who is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) away from others, even in their own home. Upon returning to school/work, it is advised to wear a high-quality mask around others in public until day 10.

This isolation period is mandatory regardless of vaccination status or use of masks. The start date for the isolation period is based on whether or not the positive individual is symptomatic or asymptomatic. Symptomatic individuals are highly recommended to stay at home until:

- (1) at least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
- (2) they are at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, AND
- (3) symptoms have improved.

Asymptomatic positive - Individuals must stay home until the 5-day isolation period has passed and be free of fever for at least 24 hours without the help of fever reducing medications. If a case does not meet the criteria above at the end of 5 days, then s/he needs to continue to isolate until all criteria are met.

Positive Case	Isolation Period & Infectious Period
<u>SYMPTOMATIC POSITIVE CASE</u> (Experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19)	<u>Isolation Period begins on</u> the first date the individual experiences symptoms (the symptom onset.) The individual must isolate for 5 days. When counting days, the first day of symptom onset is day "0." <u>Infectious Period:</u> 2 days before symptom onset
<u>ASYMPTOMATIC POSITIVE CASE</u> (Not currently experiencing symptoms Associated with COVID-19)	<u>Isolation Period begins on</u> the date of the positive test. The individual must isolate for 5 days. When counting days, the date of the positive test is day "0." <u>Infectious Period:</u> 2 days before test specimen collected/ test date



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

○ *Are masks required in RCSS buildings or on school buses?*

No. However CDC guidance recommends mask wearing and monitoring your symptoms as soon as you find out you were exposed. Any individuals potentially exposed to COVID-19 are advised to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask any time you are around others inside your home or indoors in public for 10 full days after the last exposure. Day 1 is the first full day after your last exposure to someone with COVID-19.

○ *Can the school nurses use GRITS to verify COVID vaccination with parent consent?*

Yes, nurses are able to use the “Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services” (GRITS) to verify student vaccination status with or without parent consent (see FERPA).

○ *Does vaccination status affect the need to physically or socially distance?*

No. Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, all individuals over the age of two are advised to wear masks and socially distance when appropriate.

○ *How do I determine the correct return to school date for positive cases?*

All positive cases must isolate 5 days - either from symptom onset (symptomatic) or from positive test date (asymptomatic). Upon returning to school/work, it is advised to wear a high-quality mask around others in public until day 10.

Isolation dates for positive cases begin based on symptom onset or test dates. The first day of symptoms would be considered day “0”. If asymptomatic, test dates would be used to calculate 5-day isolation. The date of the test is day “0” with day one beginning the day after the test is taken.

○ *Is there an illness policy to separate presumed positives from those with symptoms and no known exposure?*

Individuals with COVID-like symptoms are highly recommended to be tested as soon as possible. Those who are symptomatic, but not tested, are asked to communicate with their supervisor regarding their isolation period and may be released when they are no longer symptomatic for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
(See above regarding presumed positives and home testing)

Available COVID-19 Testing Centers in Our Area

EAST CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT

- Link to book online appointments: <https://covid19.dph.ga.gov/en-US/>
- Call (706) 721-5800
- Residents of Richmond and Columbia counties, dial 311 - Hours - M-F 8AM-2PM

DOCTORS CARE- NORTH AUGUSTA

- 1520 Knox Ave, North Augusta, SC 29841 (803) 279-4120 doctorscare.com
- Mon.-Fri.- 8AM-8PM & Sat-Sun 9AM-5PM

MEDNOW / MD URGENT CARE

- (\$50-\$100 co-pay depending on insurance)
- 2851 Washington Rd, Augusta, GA 30909. (706) 922-6578 mednowurgentcare.net
- 2604 Peach Orchard Rd, Augusta, GA 30906. (706) 798-4673 mednowurgentcare.net
- Lewiston Rd, Grovetown, GA 30813. (706) 941-3333 mednowurgentcare.net
- 104 N Belair Rd, Evans, GA 30809. (706) 922-3669 mednowurgentcare.net

WALMART SUPERCENTER

- **Appointment Required**
- 3338 Wrightsboro Rd, Augusta, GA 30903. (706) 941-5317 walmart.com

CVS PHARMACY

- **Appointment Required**
- 2703 Washington Rd Augusta, GA 30909. (706) 737-4939 cvs.com
- 2505 Windsor Spring Rd, Augusta, GA 30906. (706) 796.8146 cvs.com
- 3231 Wrightsboro Rd, Augusta, GA 30909. (706) 738-2591 cvs.com
- 1520 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909. (706) 724-0598 cvs.com
- 101 Edgefield Rd, North Augusta, SC 29841. (803) 279-7470 cvs.com
- 3527 Old Petersburg Rd, Martinez, GA 30907 (706) 210-0091 cvs.com
- 1044 Furrys Ferry Rd, Evans, GA 30809. (706) 860-3945 cvs.com

WALGREENS

- **Appointment Required**
- 1505 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909. (706) 828-3113 walgreens.com
- 36050 Wheeler Rd, Augusta, GA 30909. (706) 210-7991 walgreens.com
- 3900 Washington Rd, Augusta, GA 30907. (706) 868-8084 walgreens.com
- 2493 Tobacco Rd, Hephzibah, Augusta, GA 30815. (706) 793-2106 walgreens.com