

Topic	FAQs	Answer
Face Masks	How important are masks?	Masks are vital. They are the best defense that we have.
	Are face shields acceptable without masks?	No, face shields are not acceptable in place of a mask.
	Can teachers remove face masks if they are over six feet away from students and teachers are still wearing a face shield?	With proper social distancing and remaining behind a physical barrier like a face shield or plexiglass.
	Can teachers remove face masks if they are over six feet away from students and sitting behind a plexiglass divider?	Yes
	Are clear face masks acceptable (not a face shield, a clear face mask) for staff? for students?	Probably, but we would need to look at the specific mask to evaluate it. Feel free to contact your school nurse if you question your mask and would like it assessed.
	What are the allowable exceptions to wearing a mask?	If you have trouble breathing, if you have trouble removing the face mask if you were in distress, and any other medical reason that would make wearing the mask unsafe.
	Are there risks with students wearing masks all day with minimal breaks from them? What about breaking in Carbon Dioxide?	Wearing a mask does not prevent the proper exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen in the lungs. People cannot retain carbon dioxide by wearing a mask.
	Are masks effective for our youngest children given how much they will touch, move, and drop them?	If you're touching your face or mask, it won't change the effectiveness of the mask itself. If you don't keep the mask on, then we are going to get as much benefit from the mask as possible. We would expect older children to wear the mask and keep them on all day. There will be mask breaks.
	Can kids or staff take "mask	Yes, while eating or drinking or during PE or being

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	breaks" if they are more than six feet away from one another and inside the school building?	outdoors <i>AND</i> while practicing social distancing.
	Do students/staff have to wear a face mask if they are outside and closer than six feet?	Yes
Reopening Models	Can families change their mind whenever they want about the enrollment status of their child- for example switching from distance learning to in person learning after two weeks?	Yes. RPS will create a process in which parents will inform the school of their choice (and choice change). On the instructional side, we hope to partner to limit the disruption to the classroom.
	Can you please explain how you plan to improve distance learning methods if we are required to close schools? Will there be more live instruction than this past spring?	Yes. We are planning for more live instruction, as it was clear from our surveys that increasing the amount of live instruction is essential for the purposes of student accountability, engagement and interaction with their peers. We are in the process of reviewing platforms that could support all of our students, specifically our youngest children.
	Can the district create classes of 10 and run in-person for the full week?	Unfortunately, no, at this time we don't have the space. We can't create and use alternative spaces as they won't meet the requirements to qualify as a school setting. In addition, splitting all classes in half would mean hiring double the amount of teachers. Financially, it's not realistic.
	Will you be taking temperatures daily of staff and students?	Because of the opportunity for false positives, in accordance with health guidance, we will not require temperature checks of students and staff. Instead, we will require that all faculty and staff monitor their own health, and we request that families also monitor their children's health before sending them to school.
	Will parents have an option for hybrid in a low risk model, just like they can choose remote	Parents will have the option for a remote learning model (100%) or in person instruction, not a hybrid model

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	learning?	
	Students have been affected socially and emotionally during the closure this spring. How will you help them upon return?	We will be training our mental health providers, or pupil personnel staff, to be prepared to support students upon return. This includes our social workers, school psychologists, and school counselors. With that said, all adults with students must be prepared to support students socially and emotionally. In some cases, a mental health provider may not be the right person to support a student, it may be another adult who that student has a relationship with: a nurse, an administrator, a teacher, a paraeducator. Our mental health providers will support teachers with this topic, so they can help kids in the moment.
	What kind of training can we expect for families?	Technology training, ways in which parents can help children prepare to use a digital device and platform. In addition, training on our safety and emergency protocols are, and what parents can expect from the learning and procedural experiences at school.
	What is the timeline families can expect to receive communication regarding which model we will be beginning school?	July 22 - BOE meeting in which RPS plan will be presented July 24 - RPS submits its plan to the CSDE July 31 and onward - Weekly communications from Superintendent about reopening status and model
Space	Has the district looked into spaces elsewhere in town to use?	That is an ongoing conversation with the town for storage purposes to make more space in instructional classrooms. At this time we cannot support alternate locations for instruction. Alternate spaces for instruction require creating a new school and everything that comes with that we simply do not have the time or resources necessary.
Visitors	Are you allowing visitors in the schools? What about for Emergencies?	No. We are limiting access to the schools to faculty, staff and children. If there is a need to 'see' a child during the school day, we will establish protocols for this to be done safely. For example: Face time with the principal phone.
	What about PPT meetings, PTA's?	In all scenarios, low/moderate/high risk - these meetings will happen virtually

Cleaning/ Disinfecting	How often will schools be sanitized? What protocols will be practiced for sanitizing?	Schools will be comprehensively sanitized at the end of each school day. Schools will be closed to outside groups/organizations.
	What kind of training do you plan to supply for staff and students in regards to new hygiene practices?	We are still planning for our student and staff training- however it is expected that students will go through training during the first few days of school. Staff will be involved in development prior to the start of the school year. All of these materials will be accessible on the District website and sent home in order to have a common language.
Ventilation	What will happen for rooms that don't have windows?	Each room will have to be assessed individually for ventalization to see where and how student classrooms can be moved or swapped with another room that has windows or mechanical ventilation. HEPA filters will be added a designated room for an individual with COVID symptoms
	Are air conditioners allowed to run? How will air be properly ventilated?	Air conditioners will be permitted to run, as there are classrooms that will get too hot otherwise.
COVID Response	What will the protocols and practices be if a staff member or a student tests positive for COVID 19? Will the class and any other people who were in contact with the person be quarantined at home? That student's bus? For how long?	<p>It is important to remember that there are medical symptoms that may not be COVID 19 related. Legally, we can not disclose medical information of faculty and staff.</p> <p>If an individual suspects or is displaying symptoms that they have COVID 19, the District requires that they must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the doctor and be tested <input type="checkbox"/> Return to work no sooner than 3 days fever free <input type="checkbox"/> 10 days of being quarantined from onset of symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a doctor's note <p>Kids:</p> <p>The Department of Public Health will be our guide.</p>
Quarantining	Will you be requiring	Yes, all students and staff are required to follow the rules

	quarantine if students (or staff) travel to or come in contact with some from the 22 states listed with travel restrictions?	<p>established by the State of CT with respect to Quarantine.</p> <p>Yes, although once the school year begins, we would expect that staff and students travel during appropriate school calendar times.</p>
Social distancing	How will all classrooms be set up to ensure social distancing? Will you use desks instead of tables?	<p>Currently, the state is requiring that students wear masks in their classrooms. In addition, student desks and or tables will be set up 3-6 feet apart. Where desks are available and make sense in the room configuration, they will be used.</p> <p>Any furniture that can be removed in order to make for more space between student spaces, will be removed. For our youngest children who are seated at tables and not desks, we will have partitions available for children who are having difficulty keeping their masks on.</p>
	How will you conduct evacuation drills with social distancing?	We will be using the public health mitigating protocols, and we will create school-based drills that allow students to practice using alternative routes. Students will remain in cohorts during drills.
	How will social distancing be addressed during recess, PE, and time outside?	Our staff will provide opportunities for guided practice and teaching during the opening days of school. We will also be creating social stories for students and families to practice at home.
	Have we considered the use of outdoor space to create outdoor classrooms?	We are considering temporary structures to engage more outdoor time, specifically for lunch/recess in schools with greater space restrictions.
Cohorting	How will our “specials” classes run with these safety measures? Are they expected to physically interact with all of the cohorts in their school (or schools for our art teachers)?	<p>At the elementary level art and music will be in the classroom, the teacher will be required to take extra precautions, such as increased hand washing and limiting of shared materials.</p> <p>Individual or small group orchestra or band lessons will still be provided in larger spaces so children can spread out</p> <p>For PE, teachers will Physical education will focus on activities, exercises, and sports that are teacher-led, but</p>

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		performed individually using stations staggered participation to ensure separation of students.
	How are we cohorting if kids are getting on buses with different groups than who is in their class cohort?	Mask wearing will be required and we will keep logs of ridership on the bus for contact tracing.
	I have heard that other local districts are starting the year in a hybrid model, kids only coming into school for half of the week and the other half learning at home virtually. Are we going to do that? If not, why not?	We can't speak for other districts, but the guidance we have received right now from the CSDE is that we have to implement the model that aligns with our "risk" level. Right now, we (and the rest of CT) are low risk.
	How will special services work with cohorting	Students who receive special services are part of their general education cohort, and we will aim to provide services within the general education setting with their "nuclear" cohort as much as is appropriate for their established services plan. If they require services out of the general education setting, we will do that in accordance with their written plans. In some cases, a student's "pull out" group becomes another cohort that they are a part of. Students in our RISE, PREK, and 18-21 special education programs are often an intact cohort in and of themselves.
Screening	What protocols will be put in place to ensure no one is coming to school sick?	In addition to families partnering with the school district by keeping children home when exhibiting symptoms, families will also be asked to complete a home screener with their children daily.
Materials	If school materials are not to be shared (crayons, math manipulatives), will schools be given extra money to purchase supplies needed for classrooms?	While we will limit the sharing of supplies as much as possible, there will be some community supplies. Our efforts on hand washing and sanitizing will be a priority for students. Those materials that have to be shared will receive extra attention for sanitization.
Food	How will students eat safely in	At this time we are reviewing our cafeteria spaces, and we

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	the cafeteria? Will cafeteria purchases be allowed?	are looking into how we can reduce the number of children in the space, along with looking into other room spaces to use, as students will be eating without masks on.
Transportation	Will you still use small buses at times? Or only large buses?	Small busses are still necessary for certain terrain
	How will you help students use safety procedures on the bus?	We are exploring the option of bus monitors for the purpose of loading and unloading procedures, seating arrangements, ensuring mask wearing protocols, and logging ridership.