

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Round Top-Carmine ISD has developed a plan for safely reopening school at the end of August. To help students and staff with the logistics of this transition, campuses will have staggered start dates on each campus. On Monday, August 24 only 10th through 12th and 4th through 6th grades will be allowed on campus. On Tuesday, August 25 7th through 9th and Pre-K through 3rd graders will attend classes while the other grade levels stay home. There will be no bus transportation on these two days. Normal bus schedules will resume on Wednesday, August 26 when all grade levels return to campus. Additionally, schools will not open until 7:30, so please do not drop your child off before then as they will not be allowed to enter the building early.

RT-C's plan is outlined below and correlates with current TEA guidelines and mandates. Our staff is prepared to continue our goal to provide a high level of education to our students in a safe environment. District administrators have been working throughout the summer to put safety protocols in place. Please do your part to keep our students and staff healthy by limiting your child's risks of exposure to COVID-19 beginning, at least, two weeks before school begins. Additionally, utilize the attached COVID screening tool to check your student(s) each evening during the school week.

Safety Precautions

Transportation:

- Parents are encouraged to provide transportation to and from school for their child(ren) to lessen the number of students on the bus.
- Students will be required to wear masks on the bus.
- Bus windows will be open, when appropriate, to increase air circulation.
- Neither before or after school will elementary students be allowed to be dropped off at the high school.
- Neither before or after school will high school students be allowed to be dropped off at the elementary school.

Screening Procedures:

- All staff will self screen before students arrive on campus.
- Campuses will open at 7:30 and students will report to their first period class where their temperature will be taken and logged. Please note that neither campus will open before 7:30.
- Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be sent to the nurse's office. If the nurse determines the student should be sent home, a parent, or alternate emergency contact, must be available to pick the student up from school. Students who are able to drive will be able to sign out with parent permission.
- Only visitors with school business will be allowed on campus during the school day and will be screened using the COVID 19 screening tool that is attached.
- Reference the COVID-19 Screening Tool attached for important details regarding safety protocols used to determine whether or not a student will be sent home.

Distancing and Disinfecting Efforts:

- All staff will have personal protective equipment.
- In addition to wearing face shields, teachers will have the option of wearing masks.
- Students in Pre-k through 3rd grade are strongly encouraged to wear masks.
- Students in grades 4 through 12 are required to wear masks.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be readily accessible.
- Touchless water bottle filling stations will be installed and all water fountains will be turned off.
- Please send your child with a water bottle (disposable or reusable) with his/her name clearly labeled.
- Discuss with your child the importance of not sharing food, water bottles, school supplies, masks, and other personal items.
- Lunch periods have been added and rearranged so that fewer students will be in the cafeteria at one time, allowing them to be spaced at least six feet apart.

- Both campuses will be closed to all visitors until further notice.
- Students will not be assigned lockers. Books, binders, and class specific supplies will be stored in each classroom.
- Passing periods will be staggered and students will walk six feet apart on the sidewalk and in the hallways.
- Between classes, and at other appropriate times, teachers will sanitize desks, chairs, and doorknobs.

Alternate Instructional Option

Virtual Learning:

- Parents/Guardians may opt to have their child(ren) participate in virtual learning rather than receiving face to face instruction. If you choose distance learning, please notify Mrs. Kuecker or Ms. Schoen no later than August 14 so we can make appropriate plans with the teachers.
- Virtual learners and a parent or guardian will be required to complete a Distance Learning Orientation before the start of school on August 24.
- Instruction will be delivered and completed via various Google resources that require internet access. Packets, like we provided this past spring, are no longer allowed per TEA guidelines.
- All virtual learners will be provided with a school issued Chromebook and required to sign a contract assuring that it will be returned in the same condition it was in at the time of checkout.
- Virtual learners will be held to the same late work and grading policies as students who receive face to face instruction.
- Teachers will have set office hours during their planning and conference periods in which students and parents can contact them and have questions answered in a timely manner.

Virtual Attendance Requirements:

- Daily attendance will be taken. The method of taking attendance will be reviewed during the orientation meeting.
- The 90% rule applies to virtual learners and excessive absences will result in truancy charges being filed.
- Students who do not meet the 90% attendance requirement may not receive credit for the class and may have to retake the course or grade level.
- Excessive absences may affect transfer student status.

Note: Students may choose to switch from distance learning to in class instruction at the end of a six weeks grading period.

We are all very happy that school is starting as we have all missed your children since Spring Break! We are also taking everyone's health very seriously. Please know that we are here to answer any questions and to support your children every day. Stay tuned for details regarding Jump Start Videos, Virtual Back to School Nights, Distance Learning Orientation, and Chromebook checkout.

#RTCtheGreatestSchoolsonEarth

#RTCProud

#AYearofOpportUNITY

ROUND TOP-CARMINE ISD

COVID 19 SCREENING TOOL FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS

| Have you or your child had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days? | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Persistent Cough | | |
| Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing | | |
| Fever of 100.4 or higher | | |
| Chills, Shaking (with or without fever) | | |
| Muscle pain or aches | | |
| Sore throat | | |
| Loss of Sense of Smell or Taste, Loss of Appetite | | |
| Nausea | | |
| Vomiting | | |
| Diarrhea | | |
| Headache | | |
| Have you or your child had a known exposure to a Covid Positive individual within the last 14 days? (within 6 feet of the positive individual for at least 15 minutes without masks) | | |
| Has anyone in the household been diagnosed with Covid in the past 14 days? | | |

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who **themselves** either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either
 - (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternate diagnosis or
 - (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician’s office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

2. Anyone who has had *close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to that person.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-10 and who:

- developed COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- has recovered **and**
- remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath) **does not** need to stay home.

* For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who is within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.