

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Round Top-Carmine ISD has developed a plan for safely returning to school this year.

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 Guidelines for On Campus Instructional Settings

### **Public Health Considerations**

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and RT-C ISD is doing everything possible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe. That said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread:

- **PROVIDE NOTICE:** Requirements for parental and public notices
- **PREVENT:** Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- **RESPOND:** Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
- **MITIGATE:** Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

### **PROVIDE NOTICE: Requirements for parental and public notices**

<b>COVID-19 Response Team (CRT)</b>	RT-C ISD has organized a COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) that is responsible for planning for and responding to COVID-19 concerns. The CRT is committed to supporting our school community with open and honest communication that will allow parents, students, and staff to make the best decisions for their education during the 2022-2023 school year. The nurse will be the COVID-19 contact person for the district. Our goal is to provide the safest educational experience for all students and staff whether in person or remotely.
<b>Attendance and Enrollment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2022-2023 school year.</li><li>• Student attendance may be earned through face-to face only instruction.</li></ul>

<b>Notification of Confirmed Cases on Campus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a positive case is identified for a school participant (student or employee), the District will identify and individually notify any individuals who had regular or close contact with the affected participant.</li> <li>• The COVID Response Team will notify the local health department of any positive case(s).</li> </ul>
<b>PREVENT:</b> <b>Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school</b>	
<b>Screening Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will be expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, including temperature check prior to reporting to work each day.</li> <li>• Parents/Guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.</li> <li>• Teachers and staff will monitor student health and refer students to the nurse, or health assistant, if symptoms are present.</li> <li>• Rapid COVID testing will no longer be offered by the district due to the availability of at-home tests.</li> </ul>
<b>COVID-19 Symptoms Include</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Chills or repeated shaking with chills</li> <li>• Muscle pain</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Congestion or runny nose</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Loss of taste or smell</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit</li> </ul>
<b>Definition of Close Contact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Students and Staff may continue attend school until a positive test for COVID has been confirmed.</li> </ul>
<b>Campus Visitation Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors will be limited and will need to check in with the front office.</li> </ul>

<b>Parent Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARD meetings, 504 meetings, and parent conferences will follow the mitigation guidance provided in this plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Campus Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular activities will continue to be offered consistent with the guidance for non-UIL extracurricular activities and with the guidance found on the UIL website for all UIL activities.</li> <li>• Assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together may modified to comply with guidance in this document.</li> </ul>
<b>RESPOND:</b> <b>Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school</b>	
<b>Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campuses or District Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.</li> <li>• Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.</li> <li>• Students will be sent home who have significant symptoms of the illness</li> <li>• Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Parents and students are required to report positive cases to the school nurse as reporting to the State Health Department is still required</li> </ul>
<b>Individuals not allowed to enter District Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 until criteria to end isolation has been met.</li> <li>• Absences due to COVID will be handled in accordance with the student handbook procedures just like any other illness-make-up work will be provided</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria to Return</b>	<p>-A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any student having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:</p> <p>-Exclude for at least 5 days (onset of symptoms or positive test being day 0) plus an additional 5 days of wearing a mask. Severe cases may require longer isolation.</p> <p>-*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.</p>
<b>MITIGATE:</b> <b>Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School</b>	
<b>Hand Sanitizing Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances to campuses in common areas.</li> <li>• Students and staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent reminders to wash or sanitize hands will be provided during the instructional day, including after using the restroom and before eating.</li> </ul>
<b>Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All school classrooms, offices, restrooms, cafeterias, etc. will be cleaned daily</li> </ul>
<b>Face Covering Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective Monday, June 7, 2021, all staff may choose to wear a face covering while at work</li> <li>Effective Monday, June 7, 2021, all students may choose to wear a face covering</li> <li>If possible, face masks will be available for distribution upon request</li> </ul>
<b>Arrival/Dismissal Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents will not be permitted to walk students inside the school building to their classes</li> <li>Additional campus specific protocols will be provided</li> </ul>
<b>Breakfast/Lunch Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will be served breakfast and lunch meals through the cafeteria serving lines.</li> <li>Students may eat meals in the cafeteria or other areas to reinforce social distancing and adhere to current health guidelines.</li> <li>Signage and campus staff will reinforce social distancing and traffic patterns in cafeteria</li> <li>All tables will be sanitized between lunches</li> <li>Food deliveries will need to be delivered to the front office in a container or bag with the student's name on it</li> <li>Visitors will be allowed to have lunch on campus on a limited basis</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand sanitizer will be available when boarding the bus</li> <li>Transportation staff will be trained in proper cleaning/disinfecting procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Students will need to bring water bottles from home.</b></li> <li>Drinking fountains will be transitioned to water fill stations on all campuses but this process may take some time</li> </ul>
<b>Extracurricular Including but not limited to: Band, Cheer, CTE, Dance, Drama/Theatre Arts, UIL Athletics, UIL Academics, Any other student group activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who wish to participate in any extracurricular activity must attend face-to-face/on-campus education.</li> <li>Staff needs to consider grouping and distancing when working out, practicing, and meeting to mitigate risk and allow for efficient contact tracing should COVID-19 exposure occur.</li> <li>Workout, rehearsals, practice stations and meetings should be spaced to allow for distancing between them in all directions when possible.</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be readily available in the workout area. Students and staff are encouraged to use it frequently.</li> </ul>

## 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?		