



Ridge and Valley Charter School

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## Health-Related School Re-Opening Plan

Revised 9.15.21

On June 28, 2021, the NJ Department of Education released [The Road Forward](#) which outlines Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year. This plan incorporates NJDOE recommendations, as outlined in that document.

### 1. General Health and Safety Guidelines

Ridge and Valley Charter School (RVCS) will comply with all CDC, state, and local guidelines.

- Staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices, so they can teach these to students. Staff will ensure the use of handwashing strategies including washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after nose blowing, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used. RVCS will provide adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices. All classrooms are equipped with their own bathrooms and handwashing stations.
- Face coverings and social distancing of three feet will be implemented, as much as is practicable, when indoors.
- Face coverings will be *optional* when outdoors, during all in-person school activities.
- *On buses, social distancing and face coverings will be required.*

### 2. Screening and Response to Students/Staff Presenting Symptoms

Students and staff must be screened at home every day for COVID-19 related symptoms. Students and staff who are sick must stay home.

If a student or staff begins to exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms during school hours, a safe/respectful space will be available for isolating them until they can be picked up and go home.



The school will notify the Warren County Department of Health (DOH) if someone on-site tests positive and will take direction from the DOH for further steps. When required, RVCS will conduct contact tracing in collaboration with the Warren County Department of Health.

### **3. Facilities Cleaning Practices**

RVCS will continue to use a procedure manual/checklist and schedule for increased cleaning/disinfecting. Twice weekly cleanings of all facilities by our contracted cleaning company will continue as scheduled. In addition, classrooms/offices and high touch surfaces will be disinfected daily.

If someone on-site exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or has been confirmed as COVID-19 positive, RVCS will follow recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting.

The facilities committee will ensure ventilation systems are clean and operate properly, and increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans.

### **4. Meals**

RVCS will encourage proper hand washing, before and after eating and/or preparing food as part of curricular activities. Students will eat outdoors, whenever possible.

### **5. Communication**

Information will continue to be disseminated to families through multiple avenues, such as RVCS-News Google Group, the RVCS Newsletter, and One Call Now messaging system.

### **6. Instruction**

RVCS will be providing full-day, full-time in-person instruction for all students. In the event that a student or students must quarantine for longer than three days, or if a school-wide closure is required, remote instruction will be provided during the hours of 9-1, Monday-Friday. Students participating in remote instruction will engage in guided learning experiences, assignments, and assessments using provided materials and/or available online resources as determined by their guides/teachers through Google Classroom, Zoom and other online, curriculum-based sites. Tablets with data plans, and/or student laptops, will be provided to families in need. Digital needs will continue to be monitored, and IT support provided to families, as needed.

### **7. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Culture and Climate**

RVCS deeply values the social and emotional well-being of all members of our school community and will be prioritizing experiences that rebuild our positive school culture and climate.



## **8. Special Learning Needs and Student Support Services**

In conjunction with families and the school nurse, discussion regarding accommodations, modifications, and additional precautions necessary for medically fragile students and students with physical or health impairments will be addressed.

In the event that a student must switch to remote instruction, all requirements and related services will continue to be provided in accordance with student IEPs to the greatest extent possible.

## **9. Additional Information**

For up-to-date information on coronavirus and other health issues, please go to the State of New Jersey's websites at <https://www.nj.gov/health/> OR <https://covid19.nj.gov/>. Feel free to contact the school office at 908-362-1114 or [crisisresponseteam@ridgeandvalley.org](mailto:crisisresponseteam@ridgeandvalley.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Crisis Response Team members include:

- Lisa Masi, Integration Coordinator
- Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator
- Theresa Radline, Business Coordinator
- Robin Balles, Infrastructure Coordinator
- Meaghan Manole, School Psychologist
- Toni Marek-Mazzariello, School Health Coordinator
- Jen Ross, Administrative Support Guide