



Communicable Illness Preparedness & Response Guide

By the grace of God and the heroic partnership of parents, teachers, and students, our school weathered the COVID season of the 2020-2021 school year. As we enter a new year of school on a united campus, it seems that COVID and its variants will be with us for a long time to come. Such communicable illnesses should continue to be treated with a healthy level of respect while balanced with the reality that education and the rest of life must proceed in a sustainable fashion. As such, Rockbridge Academy is pivoting to manage the presence of communicable illness in a way our school and families can maintain over the long haul.*

Meanwhile, many practical lessons learned last year will still be applied. The good news is that inroads made by vaccines and growing “herd immunity” give some hope. Even still, some protocols will remain a normal way of life at Rockbridge Academy for as long as we need to buffer the impact of new variants on our dual responsibilities to health and learning.

Consequently, the following protocols seek a balance that responds to COVID rates within the school community without hindering in-person learning and the essentials of a healthy school culture. As a small independent school, we can be more nimble in our response, and so instead of tying ourselves to the various statistics at the county, state, or national level, Rockbridge will respond based on our own absence rates due to illness as they affect our ability to remain open for classroom learning.

**Please note that the following protocols represent the current regulatory status allowing Rockbridge Academy to set our own protocols regarding COVID. Should the government once again deem it necessary to regulate infectious diseases more strictly, we will seek to comply as it applies to our institution.*

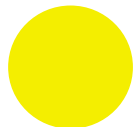


ILLNESS MANAGEMENT LEVELS

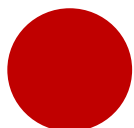
Color designations signal illness management levels appropriate to the level of communicable disease and impact to on-campus learning.



GREEN: *Normal OR Near-normal*. School absence rate below 10% due to illness*. Normal or near-normal level of activity on campus, with prevention protocols as needed.



YELLOW: *Elevated*. Schoolwide absence rate above 10% due to illness*. Increased prevention protocols.



RED: *Campus Closure Required*. Schoolwide illness rate such that continuing on-site learning is untenable for majority of grades. (Note: High rates for individual grades may require closures for specific grades only without affecting entire campus).



**ON-CAMPUS
LEARNING**



**FULL REMOTE
LEARNING
as DIRECTED**




*NOTE: Descriptions above are general. The Administration will use the 10% mark as a guide to evaluate the management level after considering the impact of illness within the community, local trends, and the effect of the absentee rates on overall success of in-class learning.














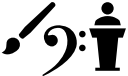

PREVENTION PROTOCOLS

Color designations signal precautionary actions appropriate to the level of COVID risk present. State and local risk levels and tools such as [Harvard Global Health Institute \(HGHI\) local risk tracking tool](#) will be consulted.

IN SCHOOL PROTOCOL MATRIX

	GREEN	YELLOW
Facemasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks will be encouraged but determined by parental choice for students. Masks will be optional for staff and visitors who are asymptomatic with no known exposure to COVID. (See flow charts for those who are symptomatic or have been exposed.) 	<p><i>“When you’re moving, you’re masked”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor Public Spaces: Masks required (hallways, bathrooms, etc.). Students may remove masks in classrooms when the entire class is seated.* Teachers: Face shields or masks to be used by teachers while teaching in front of class but these may be removed at their desk. Non-teaching staff may remove masks at their desk. Visitors/parents will be masked with children. In closed meetings masks may be removed at consent of all participants. Outdoors: Masks are optional. <p><i>*Teachers may exercise discretion requiring masks with certain activities.</i></p>
Visitor Screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a symptom self-assessment along with normal check-in procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All visitors, including parents, will be required to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a symptom self-assessment Temperature check ($\leq 100.4^{\circ}$) Use hand sanitizer at entry points
Student/Staff Screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff to check temperatures and symptoms at home before coming to school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student temperatures will be spot checked and monitored if showing any symptoms. Staff/Faculty will self-assess symptoms before entering school building.

	GREEN	YELLOW
<p>Morning Drop-off</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car line drop-off ▪ Parent walk-in allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car line drop-off only ▪ Parents who need to enter must park and be screened at the Belltower reception desk.
<p>Dismissal</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation ▪ Parents who enter required to use face mask during pick-up.
<p>Programs & Events</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All regularly scheduled activities allowed with administrator approval. ▪ Protocols will be determined as appropriate for the event (i.e. distancing, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administration will evaluate program venue and adjust logistics accordingly. Protocols will be determined as appropriate for the given event, including masking, distancing, etc.
<p>Field Trips</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All regularly scheduled activities allowed with administrator approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field trip viability will be evaluated by the administration as necessary. Protocols will be determined which are appropriate for the given trip (i.e. masking, distancing, etc.) as necessary.
<p>Athletics</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All regularly scheduled activities allowed with administrator approval ▪ See flow charts for when exposure occurs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decisions will be determined by the administration based on league action and sport specific level of risk for illness transfer.
<p>Hallway Transitions</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will mask during hallway transitions and be asked to hand sanitize upon entering class.

	GREEN	YELLOW
Classroom Setup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desks as distanced as possible in given setting. ▪ Hand sanitizer use encouraged. ▪ Teachers will direct sanitizing of materials throughout the day as they deem necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers and students will sanitize their hands prior to entering classroom. ▪ Windows and doors will be propped for ventilation. ▪ Administration will direct a more regimented protocol for sanitizing of materials & surfaces.
Cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal nightly cleaning & disinfecting routine by janitorial staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff to disinfect bathroom fixtures mid-day. ▪ Students and teachers disinfect their surfaces during service time. ▪ Normal nightly cleaning & disinfecting routine by janitorial staff
Lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation: Upper school (lunch outdoors or in Commons) Grammar School (cafeteria or classroom) ▪ Classroom lunch may be employed at Administrator discretion for Grammar or Upper school to reduce gathering density in public spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classroom lunch will be employed to reduce gathering density in public spaces.
Restroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation ▪ Hand sanitizer available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation ▪ Hand sanitizer use required ▪ Occupancy limits will be posted for multi-stall bathrooms.
Recess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation ▪ Hand sanitizer use encouraged. ▪ Grammar classes cohorted for recess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as Green. ▪ Students will be asked to sanitize their hands before and after recess.
Grammar Specials & Upper School Electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operation ▪ Hand sanitizer use encouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grammar students will sanitize their hands prior to entering and leaving gym, music room, etc. ▪ Teachers will oversee sanitizing of hard surfaces between classes.
After-the-Bell Operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal Operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will sanitize hands prior to entering and leaving area ▪ After-the-Bell employees will sanitize hard surfaces ▪ For dismissal, parents to ring and wait at reception.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- The administration will monitor absences daily as well as outbreaks of COVID or Influenza cases in order to determine the school's "Illness Management Level".
- We will continue to operate at 3 feet social distancing of desks where possible.
- Classroom cohorting in the grammar school will be the norm for certain activities, but will not be mandated for every situation.
- Masks will not be required while students eat or exercise.
- COVID rapid and pcr testing will remain a necessary part of managing the learning environment in the presence of COVID. We sincerely appreciate the extra effort families make to expedite testing.
- Vaccinations remain a personal choice within our community.
- Rockbridge Academy will no longer support synchronous remote learning for individuals. Should school close due to wide-spread illness (red level), or should a classroom or grade require quarantine for a specified period, whole group remote learning will be employed as deemed necessary to continue the pursuit of learning goals until the student body can return to campus.
- Rockbridge Academy will no longer employ a "health officer" to track COVID cases in the same manner as last year. However, health aides and a health office have been setup to serve the student body throughout the day. Aides will call families regularly to check on absent students and help monitor the general prevalence of COVID and or various flu strains that may be present within the community.

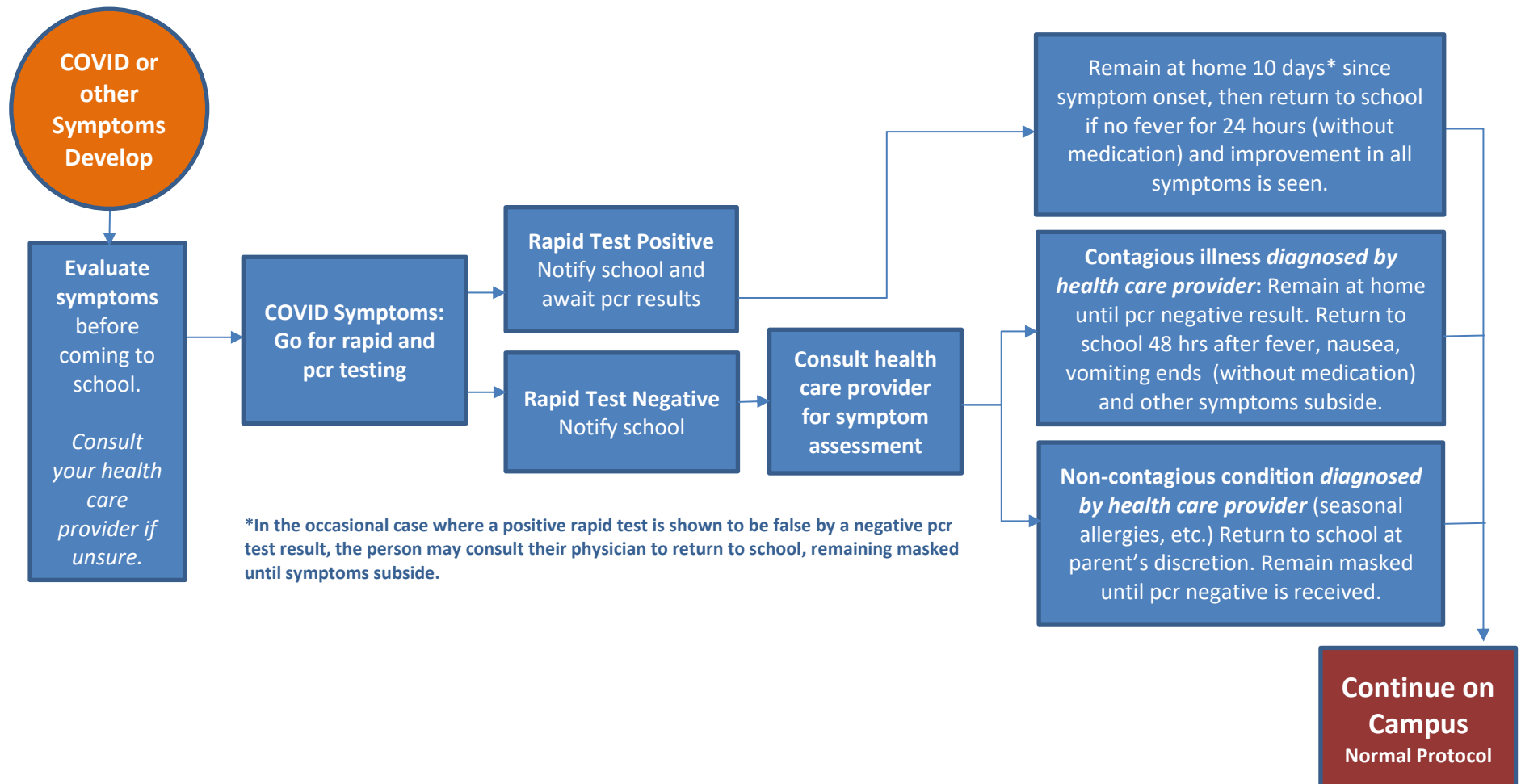
I have symptoms. What do I do?

Step 1: Symptom Evaluation

Step 2: Follow the Flow Chart

SYMPTOM EVALUATION

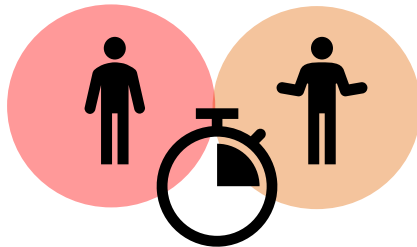
COVID-like illness is defined as any of the following: new onset persistent cough or shortness of breath, fever of 100.4° or higher, chills, shivering, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. *Unsure whether symptoms warrant a test? Contact your doctor and follow his/her recommendation before coming to school.*



I have no symptoms, but I have been exposed to a possible case of COVID-19. What do I do?

Answer these 3 questions in order...

1 Was it significant?

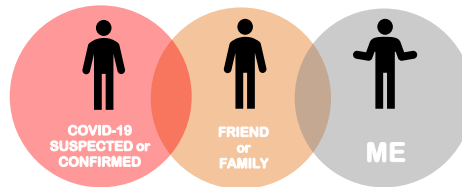


Significant Exposure means close contact (less than 6 feet, masked or not) with a possible or confirmed COVID case for more than 15 minutes.

YES? Go to steps 2 & 3.

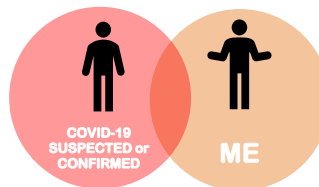
NO? No action needed.

2 To what degree?



2nd Degree Exposure?

I had significant exposure to someone who was exposed to a person being tested for COVID or with a confirmed COVID case.



1st Degree Exposure?

I had significant exposure to a person being tested for COVID or with a confirmed COVID case.

3 What may I do?

	Exposed to a suspected case of COVID	Exposed to a confirmed case of COVID
2 nd Degree Exposure	I am clear for campus, mask optional.	I am clear for campus and must mask until my direct contact receives negative rapid or pcr test.*
1 st Degree Exposure	I am clear for campus and must mask until my direct contact receives a negative pcr test.*	<u>I'm vaccinated:</u> Clear for campus, must mask until I receive negative rapid or pcr test.* <u>I'm unvaccinated:</u> Quarantine until I receive a negative rapid test. Mask until I receive negative pcr test.*

*testing is valid if taken 3-5 days post exposure.