







General Guidelines for Families

North Rock Creek prioritizes the safety and health of our students, staff, and community in an effort to mitigate risk of the transmission of COVID-19. We are monitoring the data related to COVID-19 daily from our local, state, and federal health departments for guidance and best practices. Over the past few months with information changing daily and consideration from our stakeholders, guidelines have been thoughtfully developed that are layered and adaptable while being mindful of developmentally appropriate practices for our students. These guidelines may be modified as school proceeds. We have reflected on [advice given by the American Academy of Pediatrics](#), including its [recent joint statement with leading education organizations](#), which included: *Educators and pediatricians share the goal of children returning safely to school... Science should drive decision-making on safely reopening schools.* Numerous sources support the recommendation for in-person learning. Safely meeting that goal will require everyone to work together. We understand that some families will choose to enroll students in at-home/virtual learning environments. Students in ALL grade levels will be able to receive distance learning instruction from our highly qualified educators including support services. All distance learning will occur in accordance with district policies and procedures for student accountability. Also, a *Distance Learning Agreement* will be made available at enrollment by parental request. The information presented in this public summary is shared so that all of our community can start school with a shared understanding of our responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. We understand that we cannot eliminate the virus; but with wise choices, we can mitigate it.

Layered Mitigation Practices

Precaution	Staff	Students	Details
 Symptom Screenings	Self-screening	Parents screen before students come to school.	Please refer to the CDC's list of symptoms .
 Face Coverings Face shields, neck gaiter, and medical masks are acceptable for use.	Recommended	Recommended	Students and staff are recommended to have their noses and mouths covered whenever 6' physical distancing is not feasible or when eating and drinking.
 Physical distancing	Remain 6 feet from others whenever feasible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial coverings are recommended since 6' physical distancing is frequently difficult in classroom settings. Large gatherings of students will be postponed or outdoors (Meet the Teacher Night, Assemblies, Rise and Shine, PTO Awards, Cougar Pride, Field Trips, etc.). 		
 Hygiene	Frequent handwashing will be encouraged. Disinfection of surfaces and classroom fog disinfectant spray will occur daily. Multiple hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the sites.		

LAYERED MITIGATION PRACTICES EXPLAINED

RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS - While many children will initially demonstrate a fever, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop at first include chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child at home and for staff to take sick leave. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up symptomatic students and seek a medical opinion.

FACE COVERINGS - There is strong evidence that face coverings for both the nose and mouth help interrupt the spread of COVID-19 by protecting both the wearers and those with whom they come in contact. This includes cloth masks, neck gaiters, face shields, and other CDC-recommended masks. Students will be reminded that by wearing a face covering at school, they are protecting themselves and those around them. The ideal, safest situation to prevent viral spread is for everyone to wear face coverings over their mouths and noses at all times except when eating and drinking. For this reason, face coverings will be recommended. Face coverings will be worn throughout the day. Examples include, but are not limited to, on school buses, in hallways, and in classrooms. Elementary school students will be reminded regularly to wear face coverings whenever social distancing is difficult or not feasible. We understand that younger students do not have the same maturing level as older students. We also recognize that there are students with special conditions or may otherwise be non-compliant, which may require reasonable and non-stigmatizing adjustments.

HYGIENE - Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent infections. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. They will also have access to hand sanitizer throughout the school when hand-washing facilities are not readily available.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL/MEETINGS - As students arrive at school in the morning, they will be directed to classrooms or general areas where social distancing is feasible. Staff members will be available to escort students that do not know where their new classroom is located. School dismissal will follow social distancing guidelines by not waiting in large groups. *Parents may call/email to make appointments with staff.*

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - Extracurricular activities such as marching band, student council, drama, and athletics of all descriptions are vital elements of a school student's experience. Responses to COVID-19 in these environments will vary, with a keen eye to proven practices in prevention and protection. It is difficult to predict what the athletic season will look like. The district will continue to draw upon expert advice and guidelines for safe play from state and national organizations. It is equally uncertain what the high school, middle school, and intermediate school fan experience will include. Our hope, especially for outdoor sports, is that fans will be able to enjoy activities by engaging in proper physical distancing.

LARGE GATHERINGS - In-person gatherings such as Meet the Teacher, Rise and Shine, PTO Awards, and Cougar Pride will be suspended or outdoors to avoid the possibility of exposure of COVID-19. Virtual assemblies and the like will be feasible with the projection/display technology in each classroom.

WATER FOUNTAINS - We encourage students and staff to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school since traditional "bubble up" water fountains may need to be disabled.

VACCINATIONS - We encourage students and staff to become vaccinated in order for a safe return to school according to the CDC guidelines.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS - Vulnerable Populations - The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has affected marginalized populations in our community. As a result, North Rock Creek will ensure that those affected groups will have access to and be prioritized in our supplemental instruction including extended learning and pull-out times as indicated in the 20% set-aside. Counselors and academic staff will target and communicate with those affected vulnerable populations within our student body for enrollment in these additional programs.