

# DRVC Elementary School Reopening - Family FAQ

## 1. When and where will my child be required to wear a facemask?

All students and staff must wear cloth face coverings: (i) whenever they are within 6 feet of someone; (ii) in hallways; (iii) in restrooms; and (iv) other congregate settings, including buses. Face coverings should be worn at all times, except when: (i) eating or drinking, and (ii) greater than 6 feet of distance can be safely maintained, (iii) where other state-approved physical barriers are in place between students. Please note that students will be required to wear face coverings except during designated mask breaks and snack or meal breaks or where other appropriate controls are in place to maintain social distancing.

Individual principals may implement more stringent requirements, consistent with the needs of their communities and reopening plans.

## 2. Will my child be allowed to remove their mask at any point during the school day?

Many schools are planning to implement “mask breaks” during the day where students will be able to remove their masks in appropriate socially distanced settings. While schools are designing classrooms with the goal of meeting social distancing criteria (desks spaced six feet apart, physical barriers where distance is insufficient, etc.), students will be required to wear masks for a significant portion of the school day.

## 3. How are faculty and staff being prepared to resume in-person classes and ensure the safety of my child?

All faculty and staff are undergoing the necessary training to ensure a safe return to school. Professional Development days are being utilized to train staff on daily procedures as well as a variety of different scenarios. We have partnered with an expert safety and threat mitigation consulting firm to ensure that each school’s reopening plan accommodates social distancing and allows for a safe, quality in-person learning experience for every child.

## 4. How will my child be made aware of all these new COVID-19 procedures?

Each school will conduct a comprehensive orientation for students during the first week of school.

## 5. If my child’s school is open in-person and I feel uncomfortable sending them back, can I choose to keep them at home? Can I send them to school some days and keep them home on others? Will they still receive the same level of instruction from home?

Every family will have the choice of whether or not to send their child back to school. Diocese of Rockville Centre elementary schools have invested in staff training and technologies that will allow for a quality and engaging remote learning experience for any child unable to return for in-person instruction. Questions about specific arrangements for your child should be directed to your school’s principal.

**6. What is the protocol for when a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19?**

In the event that a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, schools will adhere to the official DRVC COVID-19 Quarantine Isolation and Dismissal Procedures corresponding with state and local guidelines. The infected individual will first be isolated and then transported from the school. The area that has been contaminated must be closed off until cleaned and disinfected. This will depend on where the infected person has been in the building. Once disinfected, the area may be used again.

Who is affected and dismissed depends on who had “close and proximate contact” with the individual (has been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the person was isolated). Those meeting this criteria will be notified by school officials regarding any necessary quarantine. Ideally, the school will close the contaminated area for a 24 hour waiting period; however, if complete decontamination can occur overnight, the contaminated areas may reopen the next day.

**7. Am I required to take my child’s temperature before sending them to school?**

All student temperatures will be taken daily immediately upon arrival at school by approved staff. There will also be required periodic completion of screening questionnaires for students. While parents are not required to take their child’s temperature, they should not send their child to school if they are displaying any symptoms of illness or have had any contact with any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or displayed any signs of possible infection. Per state guidance, any student who has a temperature of 100°F or greater or has a positive response on the screening questionnaire must be isolated from others and sent home immediately.

**8. Will my child still be able to engage in recess and other physical activities? Will organized sports be occurring?**

Students will have the opportunity to be physically active during the school day. Outdoor spaces used during recess will be redesigned to accommodate social distancing and access to playgrounds and other recreational equipment will be limited to one cohort at a time. Any equipment used will undergo thorough disinfecting before the next cohort has access to it. Regarding organized sports, the Catholic Middle School Athletic Association (CMSAA) will resume operations only when it is determined that interscholastic athletics are safe for children amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The CMSAA will convene to determine future athletic schedules.

**9. Will my child’s privacy be protected in the event of a COVID-19 infection?**

Yes. Health information will be treated as confidential and private by all DRVC employees. Those who must be quarantined will receive a message that states “the student/staff member has been in close and proximate contact with someone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and must remain out of school for the quarantine period.” However, the identity of the student or staff member who tested positive or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must remain confidential, in accordance with regulations.

**10. I'm nervous about sending my child to school on the bus. What steps are being taken to ensure buses are sanitary and safe for my child?**

Local school districts will be in charge of overseeing all safety and sanitation protocols regarding busing. Measures taken will comply with local health guidelines to ensure the safety of all students utilizing buses.

**11. What do I do if school goes remote and I don't have a computer / internet access at home for my child?**

In the event that your school is forced to return to remote instruction and you do not have access to a computer or the internet at home, please contact your principal as soon as possible. DRVC schools have many resources, including loaner devices which can support distance learning. We are committed to providing every student with access to the technology they require to succeed in a remote environment. Please contact your principal for additional information.

**12. What do you plan to do about children not adhering to social distancing and mask-wearing policies?**

The Diocese has a zero-tolerance policy for willfully disregarding health and safety requirements. Principals have the discretion to determine appropriate consequences for minor or unintentional violations, but willful violation of COVID-19 safety requirements must be treated as a serious disciplinary matter. School leaders understand that this will be a difficult adjustment for many students, and we plan to provide thorough education on the importance of mask wearing.

**13. Are all teachers and staff required to be tested for COVID-19 before returning to school? Does my child need to be tested?**

While testing is not a requirement to return to school, teachers and students are directed not to return if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with an individual who tested positive or exhibited symptoms. Temperature checks and screening questionnaires will help ensure that individuals with or at risk for COVID-19 are not accessing school facilities.

**14. If my child tests positive for COVID-19 or was exposed to an infected individual, how long do they need to stay home from school?**

A student who has been in close and proximate contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must be quarantined for 14 days. A person diagnosed with COVID-19 must be isolated for 10 days and can only return to school after being free of fever without medication for 24 hours.

**15. How long must a building be closed if a case of COVID-19 is identified?**

School administration will coordinate with local health departments to make this determination in accordance with the state and CDC guidelines. The area that has been

contaminated must be closed off until cleaned and disinfected. This will depend on where the infected person has been in the building. Once disinfected, the area may be used again. Ideally, the school will close the contaminated area for a 24 hour waiting period; however, if complete decontamination can occur overnight, the contaminated areas may reopen the next day.