



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER

2021-2022

Hodag Preparedness Plan

August 16, 2021

Dear SDR Families and Staff,

Thank you once again for your support, patience and flexibility as we collectively work together to make available a first-class opportunity for students to learn and grow. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern worldwide. Recently the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services have recommended face coverings indoors for all people. After discussion with our Health Advisory Team, administration has determined that at this time masks will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors to begin the school year. SDR Administration made this decision based on the current impact of COVID in our local community. We encourage all families and individuals to consider what is in their best interests in regard to face coverings. Face coverings will continue to be required on buses for all riders and drivers per federal guidelines.

SDR has a goal of providing in-person learning five days per week. The District will also have face coverings available in each school and will continue mitigation strategies in all buildings by encouraging distancing, handwashing, and promoting all to remain home and get tested if experiencing COVID symptoms. Please read through the details outlined in this plan for how the District will be operating this school year regarding COVID. We are looking forward to having all of our students, staff and visitors back in the school buildings this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Eric Burke
Superintendent of Schools
School District of Rhinelander

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Planning Priorities

In developing its Hodag Preparedness Plan, the School District of Rhinelander has prioritized the following items for a safe start to school:

- Keeping all schools open 5 days a week
- The physical and emotional safety of students and staff
- A commitment to having high expectations for student learning, growth, and achievement
- Engagement of its stakeholders in a transparent decision making process
- *Health & Safety*—Establishing of protocols that will keep students and staff as safe and healthy as possible
- *Quality Instruction*—Providing in-person instruction five days a week with a virtual option (as RVA enrollment allows) through Rural Virtual Academy
- *Efficient & Safe Operations*—Ensuring that regular operations of the district can occur while keeping in mind its staff, student, and parent capacity as well as space limitations and financial resources
- *Flexibility & Responsiveness*—Preparing plans that can be adjusted as new information becomes available
- Following all WIAA Guidelines

SDR Instructional Levels

Levels of instruction are based on **data** provided by the Oneida County Health Department, local health professionals, and the SDR Health Advisory Panel.

In extreme circumstances, a change to the level of instruction may be determined necessary by the SDR Superintendent, the SDR Health Advisory Panel, and the Oneida County Health Department within 24 hours.

The levels will be determined by the following factors:

- Community impact of COVID-19
- School District impact of COVID-19
- Individual school building impact of COVID-19 (may need to move individual buildings levels based on determining factors)

Level 1	School is held in-person 5 days per week except for those that choose virtual learning through RVA.
Level 2	Implement additional mitigation strategies and/or the reduction of in-person learning to less than 5 days per week.
Level 3	Full remote learning. Staff reports to school as determined by School District Administration and the Health Advisory Panel.

** The Oneida County Health Department and the State of Wisconsin may decide for all schools to follow additional health orders at any time. This decision would supersede the thresholds developed by SDR for its students and staff.*

SDR Risk Reduction Strategies

Overview

- Face coverings are optional.
- Whenever possible, 3 feet of distance will be maintained between individuals. Cohorts will be used to the highest level possible.
- However, due to space constraints and enrollment, SDR will not be able to consistently maintain 3 feet of distance between all students at all times.

The following measures will be taken to minimize student contact:

Physical Distancing, Entry and Exit, and Movement Patterns

- Students will be advised to stay to the right in hallways and to not touch other students, lockers, walls, or others' belongings.
- To the greatest degree possible, spacing will be used while students are lining up, waiting, and walking throughout each school.
- The use of nonessential classroom furniture will be minimized to allow for maximum spacing between student desks.
- The use of communal supplies will be limited, with students using individual supplies as much as possible.
- Water filling stations continue to be available. Students will be encouraged to bring a labeled water bottle from home and use the bottle fillers.
- Classroom teachers will teach and reinforce concepts of good hygiene practices including managing coughs/sneezes and how to properly clean hands.

SDR Risk Reduction Strategies

Physical Distancing, Entry and Exit, and Movement Patterns (continued)

- Signage promoting physical distancing and proper handwashing procedures will be prominently displayed throughout all buildings.
- The times before and after school when students are allowed in school buildings will be limited. Students will be asked to move directly to classrooms upon arrival and will not be allowed to congregate in large groups in common areas (e.g. cafeterias, gyms, hallways, etc.)
- Buildings will be outfitted with refillable individual hand sanitizer.
- Air purifiers have been provided to all classrooms and building air flow has been optimized.

Protocols for Hand Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff.

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to each campus, in the cafeteria, and in common areas throughout each campus.
- Recommended hand washing upon return from outdoors, before eating, and following restroom breaks.
- Staff will have access to spray to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects.
- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, it will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Custodial staff will regularly clean and disinfect classrooms, restrooms, weight rooms, athletic facilities, and all additional areas in the entire building.

Face Coverings at School & on the School Bus

Recently, the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services have recommended face coverings indoors for all people. After discussion with our Health Advisory Team, district administration has determined that ***at this time, masks will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors to begin the school year.***

Face coverings will continue to be required on buses for riders and drivers per federal order.

On January 29, 2021, the CDC issued an Order that required face masks to be worn by all people while on public transportation (which included all passengers and all personnel operating conveyances) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and U.S. territories. For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

General Health Protocols

Two separate health areas will be designated in each school building.

- One room will be the “regular” health room for first aid, medication, and scheduled health office visits.
- The second area will be an isolation area for students exhibiting influenza or COVID-19 symptoms.

The student in this isolation area will be monitored by trained school personnel until the parent or guardian arrives. Instructions will then be provided to the parent or guardian as well as information on how to follow up with their medical provider for treatment recommendations.

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19 (such as a fever, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, etc.), trained school personnel will assess if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers in an isolation space. Families and/or emergency contacts will be called immediately to make arrangements for pick up.

Important Health Definitions

Close Contact

- An individual identified as a close contact has been within 3 feet proximity for a total of 15 minutes or more of an individual who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
- Identification includes contact from the 2 days prior to symptom onset (or positive test date, if asymptomatic) through the discontinuation of isolation, regardless if individuals were masked.

Quarantine

- Results if an individual may have been exposed to the virus.

Isolation

- Results if an individual tests positive for the COVID-19 virus—even if that person does not have symptoms.

Asymptomatic

- Producing or showing no symptoms.

Symptomatic

- Producing or showing symptoms (including loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough, chills, headache, muscle pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, runny nose, congestion, sore throat, temperature of 100.0 F or higher)
- *Symptoms should be new and outside of the individual's normal health baseline.*

Onset of Symptoms

- The date that symptoms start.

Isolation and Quarantine Protocols for Students or Staff

Isolation will be required when:

- The individual has tested positive for COVID-19. Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.
- If symptomatic, the individual may return to school after **10 days** from symptom onset.
- If asymptomatic, the individual may return to school **10 days** after their test date.

Quarantine protocol for vaccinated individuals:

- If identified as a **close contact** to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, vaccinated individuals would NOT need to quarantine unless **symptoms** are present.
- It is recommended that fully vaccinated people get tested **3-5 days** after their exposure. Vaccinated individuals should wear a mask indoors for 14 days following exposure or until their negative test result is verified by the school district.

Quarantine protocol for unvaccinated individuals:

- If identified as a **close contact** to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, unvaccinated individuals **WILL** need to quarantine for 10 days and can return to normal activity on Day 11 with ongoing symptom monitoring required through Day 14.
- Unvaccinated individuals can get tested 3-5 days after their exposure. A negative test result verified by the school district will result in a quicker return to school.

Home Prevention

The district greatly values the efforts of families in assisting to keep all students healthy. Therefore, it is imperative that parents monitor their student's health at home. Families are asked to assess each student's health at home each morning which may include temperature checks and assessing any symptoms. **Students should NOT be sent to school if they are sick.**

Parents are asked to ensure that emergency contact information is updated in Infinite Campus. If students become ill at school, families and/or emergency contacts will be called immediately to make arrangements for pick up.

Staff are asked to self monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and should not report to work if they are symptomatic.

Learning Support

In these unprecedented circumstances, meeting the social and emotional needs of our students, staff, and families is more important than ever.

- The Learning Support Team will be coordinating the use of available resources to address these needs.
- School psychologists, counselors, and building administrators are trained in recognizing signs of trauma, grief, fear, and anxiety that may be resulting at a higher frequency due to the pandemic.
- Each building has an operational Problem Solving Team that works with school-based teams of teachers and support staff to implement plans for students that are struggling to be successful in their school setting.
- Teachers have and will continue to receive training in Responsive Classroom, Restorative Practices, and Character Strong as well as employing methods to support and build community within the classroom.

Students with IEPs, Section 504 Plans, Individualized Health Plans or Personal Learning Plans will continue to receive services and accommodations outlined in their plans.