

# **RTR ISD No. 2902**

## **2021-2022 Safe Return to School Plan**

### **Introduction:**

There's no doubt 2020-2021 school year has been a challenging one for the RTR ISD #2902 community. Parents, students, teachers, and staff have had to find new ways to support, learn and teach. As all of us take the time to show what we're thankful for this past year, there's no doubt the RTR parents are at the top of the list. In FY21, they added to their parenting duties by lending hands as tutors, changing the way they volunteer, showing patience, and providing grace in a changing pandemic environment.

We have overcome a unique time in history. None of us would have ever wanted to go through this COVID-19 pandemic! But we now have a chance to make it something positive that will change teaching and learning forever; for the better. We are in the process of examining and considering which educational solutions and processes have worked well, and what parts of public schooling should be permanently altered and changed. There's no going back now!

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the district worked with staff, collaborated with Southwest Health and Human Services, and followed the directives established by the MN Department of Health and MN Department of Education, as well as executive orders issued by Governor Walz, to develop plans to provide high quality education for our children in a safety-enhanced learning environment. These plans went far beyond the sudden dive into education technology. In fact, some of the most exciting educational solutions forced by the pandemic have little to do with giving every student a device.

Last summer the school district, in conjunction with staff, school board members, and parents developed three scenarios for Safe Learning Plans. Those scenarios were: In-person learning, hybrid learning, and distance learning. These plans were a disruptive moment into our "Normal School" designs with many discoveries, realizations, creativity and much more innovation. We are never going fully back to the old ways!

### **2021-2022 Safe Return to School Plan:**

Moving forward into the 2021-2022 school year, the RTR ISD No. 2902 will be returning to a fulltime in-person learning model; where all students will be attending each day in our new (PreK-12) Facility on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. We know there is no substitute for quality in-person learning!

Students who spend face-to-face time with their teachers, peers, and school-support staff result into a more engaging, successful learning experience. Quality in-person instruction is crucial for them to develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally, and it sets them up for a lifetime of successful learning.

## **Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention:**

For the 2021-2022 school year, the RTR ISD No. 2902 will continue to implement mandates and guidelines as issued by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Governor Walz, and Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) regarding basic pandemic school policy and extra-curricular programming.

The following site has all of these guidelines and policies:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

Evidence suggests that many K–12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.

### **Face Coverings:**

- It is recommended that all unvaccinated people present in the school building still wear a face covering. This is a **recommendation** and not a requirement. The school district will not require it nor will the district investigate vaccination status.
- The face covering recommendation does not apply to preschool age children, or people who are unable to wear one due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability.

### **Child Nutrition-Meals:**

- Meals will be available at the school. Students may bring home lunches, just like in the past.

### **Transportation:**

- Regular transportation routes will be used. Double routes will not be implemented in FY22.
- Current public health transportation regulations identify that face coverings are still required while riding on buses. At this time, this is a requirement, not a recommendation. If this changes from a requirement to a recommendation, the school transportation regulations will complement that MDE decision.

### **Extracurricular Activities and Athletics:**

- Each activity/sport will provide parents/guardians and students with guidelines or regulations necessary for their activity/sport if changes occur from normal procedures.
- Season length and number of competitions may be reduced and travel may be reduced, eliminated, or become a parent responsibility.

### **Safe Return to School Plan Review:**

RTR ISD No. 2902 will continue to work with local public health to monitor our school health data that includes COVID-19 issues or any other health issue by reviewing practices and procedures in place to ensure a safe and healthy environment exists for all. The school will also review regularly our Safe Return to School Plan and current school safety status.