



Rockdale County Public Schools

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING AND MASK UPDATE

Cindy Ball

Chief of Strategy and Innovation

July 21, 2022

Current COVID-19 Transmission in Rockdale County as of 7/21/22



COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county. Data updated weekly.

Select a Location (all fields required)

Georgia

Rockdale County

Go

< Start Over

High

In **Rockdale County, Georgia**, community level is **High**.

- Wear a [mask](#) indoors in public
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms
- Additional precautions may be needed for people [at high risk for severe illness](#)

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#).

Find out more about the COVID-19 situation in **Rockdale County, Georgia** with [COVID-19 Data Tracker](#).

July 14, 2022

Terminology – Know What it Means

- **Initial / Primary Series** - is the vaccine series of two doses for Pfizer or Moderna and one dose for Johnson and Johnson. Some younger age groups may include a third dose in the primary series.
- **Up to Date** – one who has received the initial/primary series and has received all recommended boosters when eligible (**this varies between age groups and type of vaccine**). The CDC guidance is now written for those who are not Up to Date and those who are Up to Date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

The CDC Guidance for Up to Date is subject to change. The CDC website has the latest information on being Up to Date at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#recommendations>

What is Contact Tracing?

Contact Tracing is identifying Close Contacts of those with confirmed COVID-19 and notifying them of their exposure.

Tracing starts at 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms of the Confirmed Case or the date of the positive test if asymptomatic.

Contact Tracing is a mitigation measure to reduce the spread of the virus but is no longer required by DPH.

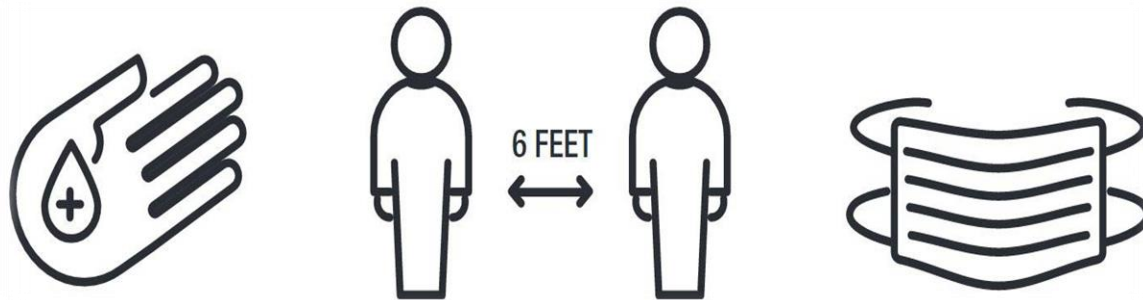
Close Contacts...

Are those who have spent a cumulative 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID, regardless of wearing a mask.

This has not changed!

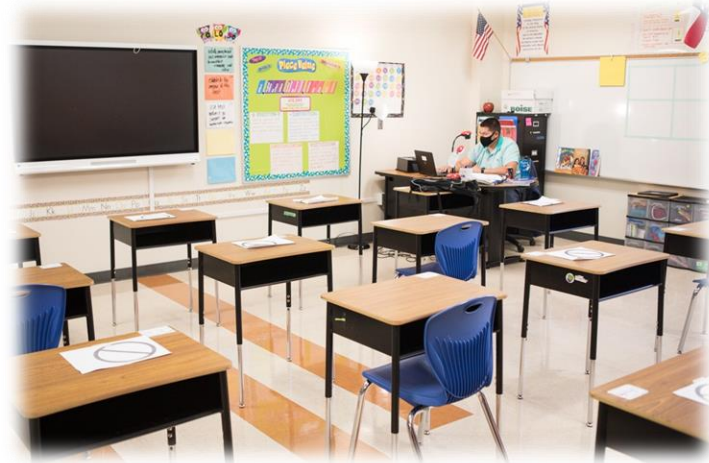
Foundational COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

- **Handwashing**
- **Social Distancing**
- **Mask Wearing** - RCPS will require students and staff to wear masks while indoors and on buses. Parents who wish to opt-out may do so by simply sending their child to school without a mask.



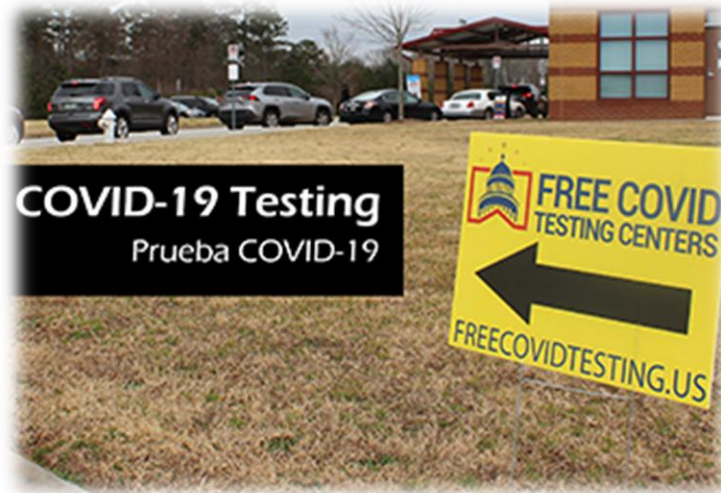
Additional Mitigation Measures

- Robust cleaning protocols



- Proper ventilation

High-impact Mitigation Measures



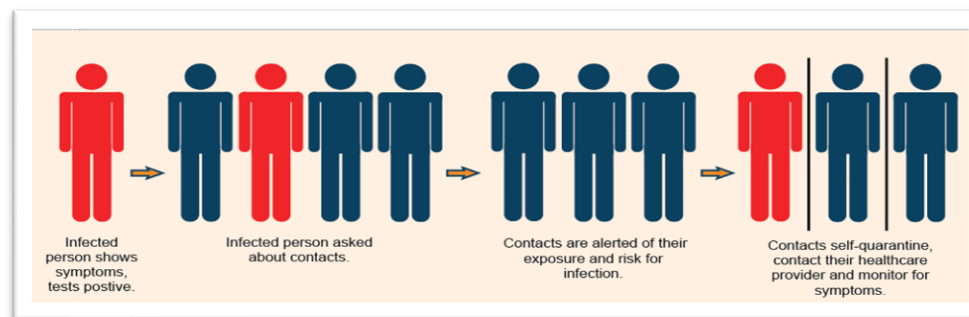
- COVID-19 Testing

- Seamless access to COVID-19 Vaccine



Contact Tracing Continues for 2022-23

- RCPS has established strong contact tracing protocols to ensure prompt intervention in the event of potential exposure.
 - Contact Tracers have been identified at each of our sites
 - Contact Tracers are trained on RCPS Protocols and CDC/DPH guidelines for reporting
 - Consistent collaboration and consultation occur between RCPS, Gwinnett Newton Rockdale Regional Health Department (GNR) and other local health officials



NEW Quarantine Requirements for Students and Staff Close Contacts

- **Close Contacts who are unvaccinated and/or NOT Up to Date on Vaccinations must quarantine for a minimum of 5 days.**
- **If asymptomatic, may return Day 6. Must continue to monitor for symptoms up to 10 days and immediately isolate if symptoms begin.**
- **RCPS will require all close contacts to wear a mask as recommended by the CDC.**

Quarantine Requirements for Students and Staff Close Contacts

The following groups **DO NOT** have to quarantine if they are identified as a Close Contact but must immediately isolate if symptoms develop:

1. Those who are Up to Date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. [Click here for the CDC Up to Date Guidance](#)
2. Any Close Contact with a positive Antigen or PCR test in last 90 days.

All Close Contacts must monitor for symptoms for 10 days and immediately isolate if symptoms develop.

RCPS will require all close contacts to wear a mask as recommended by the CDC.

Confirmed Cases Must Isolate

- **Those with COVID-19 (Confirmed Case) must isolate themselves from others for a minimum of 5 days.** If the Confirmed Case is symptomatic or asymptomatic, they must isolate at least 5 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test, respectively.
- **May return Day 6-10 when fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine and other symptoms have improved.**

Why Change Quarantine and Isolation Protocols Now?

RCPS has been both proactive and consistent with its multi-layered COVID-19 mitigation measures, contact tracing, and quarantine and isolation protocols. Why are we changing the quarantine and isolation protocols now?

- **Vaccines** – vaccines are now readily available for all age groups within our school communities.
- **Current Variant** – the prevalent variant of COVID-19 is a strain that is causing less severe illness in most people with a faster recovery time than other variants
- **Testing** – RCPS will continue to provide free COVID-19 testing for students, staff and families which allows for the use of testing to potentially reduce the quarantine and isolation periods.
- **Multi-layered Approach** – RCPS will continue to implement a variety of mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID in our schools. These include encouraging mask wearing, frequent handwashing/use of hand sanitizer, contact tracing, COVID-19 testing and vaccine opportunities, social distancing when feasible and the upgraded ventilation systems placed in all schools.
- **CDC Guidance** – the CDC guidance has changed its recommendations. RCPS will be aligned with this guidance.