

Our Renton Prep 2021-22 COVID-19 Safety Plan

Contents

1. In-Person Instruction.....	1
2. Masking & Face Coverings.....	2
3. Vaccinations.....	2
4. Physical Distancing.....	2
5. Hand Washing.....	2
6. Staying Home When Sick.....	2
7. Testing.....	3
8. Isolation.....	3
9. Exposure and Quarantine.....	4
10. Test-to-Stay Program.....	5
11. Travel.....	6
Our Renton Prep Christian School Response Plan.....	8

Last year Dr. Michelle Zimmerman was able to create a comprehensive [**RENTON PREP RE-OPENING PLAN**](#) with guidance from medical and governmental professionals, physicians, and evidence-based literature, as well as input from our students and families. We are proud to say that with this plan, **we were able to operate our school year with 0 transmission of COVID-19** during the 2020-21 School Year.

With the help of many individuals, our re-opening plan from last year was designed with the forethought that this plan could serve the coming years as well, in recognizing that COVID-19 would likely be a challenging opponent. We have seen the new variants cause appropriate apprehension as we look at this school year, but we are fortunate that our re-opening plan was designed to, and still does, remain solid in the face of these new challenges.

We would like to take a moment to highlight the plans we have for the [Renton Prep 2021-22 school year](#) that align with the requirements outlined in the recently published [COVID-19 Requirements for the 2021 and 2021-22 School Year document provided by the Washington State Department of Health](#). In addition, we are blessed to retain strong connections with medical professionals in our community who directly advise us and continue to provide input on our plans. You will be able to find the most updated documents [in this collection](#) through the school year, and can review [last year’s successes](#) in the same collection.

As we look at last year’s re-opening plan and these recent requirements, we have identified the following layered prevention strategies to help protect our staff and students:

1. In-Person Instruction

- a. As noted in the WA State Department of Health document, schools must plan to provide full time in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. As evidenced by the Governor’s emergency proclamation [20-09.3](#) and [21.05-1](#), full time in person instruction will be required for schools this year to combat the mental health crisis we saw due to lack of interpersonal interaction, as well as to engage our young learners in an effective manner.
- b. In agreement with this, Renton Prep will not be offering a virtual option for students.

2. Masking & Face Coverings

- a. Masks will be required by all students and staff members regardless of vaccination status, to ensure optimal safety while near each one another.
 - i. Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth entirely throughout wear.
- b. If your student has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing any type of face covering, we will require signed documentation from your child's physician.
- c. Younger students may require an adjustment period if they have not worn a mask for extended periods of time. We recognize this challenge, and our staff is prepared to support students with appropriate mask wear protocol during the first few weeks.
 - i. We ask that younger students start practicing wearing a mask prior to the first day of school to begin this process.
- d. According to the [Secretary of Health's Mask Order](#), all students may remove face
- e. As per the Department of Health, staff members who are fully vaccinated may remove face coverings only during school hours when no students are present.

3. Vaccinations

- a. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required to attend Renton Prep, [nor is everyone able to be vaccinated at this time](#); however, those who have been fully vaccinated will need to be verified by the leadership team via vaccine documentation to be eligible for lessened quarantine and testing as listed below.

4. Physical Distancing

- a. With an emphasis on mask wearing, we intend to maintain the recommended physical distancing of at least three feet per student in classrooms where feasible.
- b. Per the Department of Health, lack of space for physical distancing should not prevent a school from offering full time instruction, though at Renton Prep, we benefit from small class sizes and are able to comply with this. We've limited enrollment beginning 2020-2021 school year.
- c. There may be instances (such as during outdoor events like recess) that the recommended physical distancing is not possible.

5. Hand Washing

- a. Students will be required to hand sanitize/wash hands prior to eating, and prior to entering the building.
- b. Hand washing should be done for 20 seconds and students who require support. Younger students will be taught hand washing protocol by our teachers, and this will be reinforced throughout the year.

6. Staying Home When Sick

- a. This is key to keeping our students and faculty safe. Any student who has symptoms like those of COVID-19 or influenza should remain home and seek medical interventions.
- b. Please note that it is a policy in general that students do not come to school when sick with any potentially contagious illness, which includes but is not limited to COVID-19, influenza, the common cold, etc.
- c. Any student who presents with symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately. Per the WA State Department of Health, "Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Muscle or body aches

- New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea”
- d. Students may attend school if they are able to provide a signed doctor’s note attesting that the symptoms are due to a diagnosis other than COVID-19 (for example, a signed note stating that the runny nose is due to allergies, etc.)
 - e. In addition, if someone in the household is sick with a COVID-19 symptom, please keep your student(s) home as well until cleared to return
 - i. This could look like keeping an asymptomatic student(s) home with a symptomatic parent, or keeping an asymptomatic student home if their sibling is symptomatic, etc.
 - ii. When and where possible, it is recommended to keep the asymptomatic individual’s at least 3 feet away from the symptomatic individual and obtain testing as needed (see item 7)

7. Testing

- a. As required by the Department of Health, students with symptoms will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test to return to school. Parents must email the negative results with the testing date to the administrator prior to their return.
- b. Timely testing is key, as this reduces the amount of instruction days lost
 - i. Students with mild symptoms who have a negative COVID-19 test may return to school sooner.
- c. Students and faculty who have been exposed to a positive individual with COVID-19 should stay home and get tested. See Item 9 for details regarding various scenarios.
- d. **ONSITE TESTING:** Students and faculty may participate in our Return to Learn onsite testing program, which offers on-site antigen COVID-19 testing (with parental presence and consent) for students and faculty members. This program is optional, and parents always have the option to be tested in the community instead.
 - i. Please see the testing document in our [Renton Prep COVID-19 Safety Protocol wakelet](#) for more details
 - ii. If a student tests negative, they can return to school once they have been fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have significantly improved (both without use of medication)
 - iii. If students develop new symptoms, or symptoms persist/get worse within 3 days of the rapid test, Renton Prep reserves the right to request that the symptomatic individual follow-up with a PCR test at the doctor/community-based testing centers.
- e. If a person with COVID-19 symptoms tests negative with a MOLECULAR test, they can return to school if symptoms are no longer present.
- f. If an individual tests negative with an ANTIGEN or RAPID test AT HOME, **the test must be signed by a physician and have the student’s name attributed to the results.**
 - i. If students develop new symptoms, or symptoms persist/get worse within 3 days of the rapid test, Renton Prep reserves the right to request that the symptomatic individual follow-up with a PCR test at the doctor/community-based testing centers.

8. Isolation

- a. Per the Department of Health, those who test positive for COVID-19 by a molecular or antigen test can return to school upon the following*:
 - 10 days since symptom onset or since date of positive test IF no further symptoms are present AND
 - 24-hours after fever resolves without medication AND

- Symptoms improve
OR
- If you receive a negative COVID-19 molecular test AND
- Symptoms have resolved without use of medication AND
- You have medical clearance from a physician

**These isolation guidelines apply regardless of vaccination status.*

- b. Those with any COVID-19 symptom(s), but who did not get tested, must follow the above protocol for returning to school as though they did test positive.

9. Exposure and Quarantine

If a student or staff member has a known exposure to a person with COVID-19, please remain home, get a PCR COVID-19 test, and immediately contact the office for guidance.

For identified close contacts who are *not* exempt from quarantine (see item e), there are new options as of November 2021 that Renton Prep is excited to be involved in. Please note that options a and b cannot at this time apply to an unvaccinated individual who lives with a COVID-19 positive person. In those circumstances, students must follow quarantine options c or d, as guided by our LHJ.

a. **7-Day with Negative Test Quarantine** (students and staff): Students and staff must quarantine at home. Quarantine can end after 7 full days beginning after the last close contact IF:

- i. no symptoms have developed, AND
- ii. after receiving a negative test result.

The test should occur no sooner than on or after day 5 post-exposure. The negative test results may come from school testing programs or other community-based test site. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result must show:

- The first and last names of the individual tested.
- The type of test performed (must be molecular or antigen).
- The date the specimen was collected (must be on or after day 5 post-exposure).
- A negative result.

In addition, families should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the known exposure.

b. **7-Day Test to Stay Modified Quarantine (students only):** K-12 students who are close contacts in a school or district with an LHJ-approved “Test to Stay” protocol must complete a “modified” quarantine of 7 days. **See section 10 in this document for further details.**

If an individual or student who is identified as a close contact **chooses not to test or does not get tested, one of the following will apply**, as instructed by our LHJ:

c. **10-day Quarantine:** Quarantine should last for 10 days after the last close contact without additional testing required. However, if any COVID-19 symptoms develop during the 10 days, remain in quarantine and get tested. Continue monitoring for symptoms until day 14.

d. **14-day Quarantine:** Quarantine may be recommended for 14 days after the last close contact with the COVID-19 positive person. Monitor for symptoms during this time, and if any COVID-19 symptoms develop during the 14 days, get tested.

e. **People who may be exempt from quarantine:**

- i. Close contacts or K-12 close contacts who are fully vaccinated and do not have 14 symptoms do not need to quarantine but should be tested 5-7 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in all public indoor spaces for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

- They should isolate and follow appropriate guidance if they test positive.
 - If they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated.
 - The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.
- ii. Close contacts or K-12 close contacts who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past three months, have recovered and do not have symptoms, do not need to quarantine but should be tested for COVID-19 with an **antigen** test 5-7 days post-exposure, wear a mask in all indoor public spaces for 14 days or until they receive a negative antigen result.
- Continue to watch for symptoms through 14 days and get evaluated by a health care provider if symptoms develop.

10. Test-to-Stay Program

The Washington Department of Health’s Test to Stay Program provides school districts an opportunity for a modified quarantine for unvaccinated students identified as K-12 close contacts of COVID-19 cases. Renton Prep was recently approved by our LHJ to participate in this program!

Participation in this program requires parental consent (provided upon each instance that this may be relevant) and adherence to the below policies. If families choose not to participate, they may do so by quarantining as required in section 9.

a. Modified Quarantine

Students who are a close contact of a COVID-19 case may continue to attend school if they participate entirely in the DOH Test to Stay Program. **During this modified quarantine, the student must quarantine at home except for attending school classes.** Participation in non-classroom school activities, such as extracurricular and community activities, is not permitted, nor is attendance to group childcare or youth development programs. A modified quarantine is not an option for teachers, staff, or other adults. School districts that do not implement the DOH Test to Stay Program may use the K-12 close contact exception criteria, but they are required to follow the standard quarantine guidance for close contacts.

b. Eligibility: The DOH Test to Stay Program and associated modified quarantine apply to situations when a student is exposed to COVID-19 *in school*. Students who are exposed outside of school (e.g., household exposure, private sports league exposure, etc.) are not eligible to participate, must quarantine at home, and follow the standard quarantine protocol used by the school district in coordination with their local public health agency.

This program is designed to help reduce exclusion from in-person instruction if all required mitigation measures have been followed and testing is used as a method of screening as outlined below. Schools/Districts may elect to participate in this.

c. Test to Stay Protocol Students who were exposed on the Renton Prep campus by an individual during school events/school hours may continue to attend class in a modified quarantine status for 7 days after exposure, if they:

- Are tested at least twice* during the 7 days of quarantine (test 1 will be as soon as possible after identified exposure, and test 2 will be 5-7 days after exposure, per recommendations by our LHJ); **AND**
- Are asymptomatic; **AND**
- Continue to wear a mask; **AND**

- Continue to quarantine from (i.e., not participate in) all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and other activities outside their home (e.g., scouts, music lessons, etc.) for the entirety of their modified quarantine period*.

*This includes group childcare or youth development programs provided before and after school, which should not be attended during modified quarantine. **Students in modified quarantine will be unable to come to before/after school care, per the DOH requirements.**

If a student does not test positive for COVID-19 during the modified quarantine, students may resume group childcare/youth development attendance and extracurricular and community activities *after 7 days have passed* since their exposure **but should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days after their exposure.**

d. **Who is not eligible for Test to Stay modified quarantine?**

- Students who were exposed outside of school
- Students who opt out of testing are not eligible for the modified quarantine, as described above, and will need to quarantine at home for the days listed in section 9.
- **Fully vaccinated students** who meet the definition of close contact and remain asymptomatic are not required to quarantine or participate in the DOH Test to Stay Program; however, **they should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure date.**
- Fully vaccinated students who meet the definition of close contact and develop symptoms should self-isolate and be tested for COVID-19 immediately.
- Students who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months, as they do not need to quarantine and follow similar guidelines as fully vaccinated individuals.

In addition, if a student (vaccinated or not) tests positive for COVID-19 at any time, they must isolate at home and follow DOH isolation guidance.

e. Testing Options through Onsite Testing

- Per the DOH “Antigen tests, given the ability to obtain results within minutes and the need to identify positive close contacts and isolate in a timely fashion, should be the preferred testing modality”.
- We will be able to offer these through our onsite testing program, should parents desire (see section 7d) *while supplies last.*

11. Travel

- Per [CDC guidelines](#), after you travel (domestically and internationally) it is *recommended* to “get tested with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.”
 - o Families are welcome to adhere to the above guideline, by getting tested and keeping their students home for 7 full days after travel.
- Renton Prep is pleased to offer an alternative based on our layered strategies. In attempts to reduce time away from class, out of an abundance of precaution and in light of recent research, **Renton Prep is requiring for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals:**
 - Staff and students provide a negative PCR test result upon returning from travel prior to returning to school, **AND**
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get re-tested if you develop symptoms.

- c. If you choose not to get tested after travel, students/staff must stay home and self-quarantine **for 10 days after travel per the CDC recommendation and in aligning with King county DOH**. In addition, it is recommended to:
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements.

Our Renton Prep Christian School Response Plan

The Department of Health recently updated its definition of an “outbreak” to the following:

“A COVID-19 outbreak in a school is considered when the following have been met:

- Multiple probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a specified core group1 OR*
- At least 3 cases within a specified core group meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case; AND*
- Cases have symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other, AND*
- Cases were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e., household) outside of the school setting, AND*
- Cases were epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity*

** A “core group” includes but is not limited to extracurricular activity , cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.”*

In the event of an outbreak (as defined above), Renton Prep will follow the requirements by notifying the Department of Health and cooperating with public health authorities as they investigate.

While each case may be individual and require slightly different guidelines from local public health, in the event that they provide us with the option to make our own decision, we will adhere to the following guidelines:

Renton Prep Leadership made the decision to prioritize transparency at the beginning of the pandemic. We will continue our assurance of transparency and notify students, families, and staff in the event of an outbreak.

In addition, regarding metrics for safety, Renton Prep has taken the liberty to design criteria for determining when we may need to pivot to remote learning

If 3 students in the same class contract COVID-19 and there is no known contact or exposure outside of the classroom and they do not share the same household, we will pivot the entire class to remote learning during the quarantine protocol timeline above.

If 30% of students or faculty test positive for COVID-19 and do not share the same household, we will shift the entire school to remote learning during the quarantine protocol timeline.

In the event four or more in-person faculty are unable to present to school in person to fulfill job duties, Renton Prep Leadership will make one of the following decisions:

1. Whether only the classrooms with teachers unable to present in person will shift to remote learning, ***OR***
2. if the entire school will need to shift to remote learning.

This decision would be weighed on the risk/benefit balance, prioritizing student safety and dependent on the circumstances of the scenario.

