



Ridgewood High School D234

August 2022

Our main priority at Ridgewood High School continues to be everyone's health and safety.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have updated their COVID guidance, fully adopting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. District 234 will continue to follow best practices in regards to health and safety to ensure our students and staff have a safe, supportive learning environment.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has mandated full, in-person instruction as the top priority and requires school districts to develop plans collaboratively with our local health agency, Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH).

Schools must continue to provide [remote learning](#) to any student who is under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 based on the State Superintendent's Remote Learning Declaration.

The RHS Health & Safety Protocols for the 2022-23 school year are:

- Students & staff should monitor themselves for symptoms of illness before leaving home for school, **stay home if they have signs of any illness**, and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Ridgewood High School is **mask-optional**. The CDC recommends the use of masks at a high COVID-19 community level. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low.
- Students in quarantine will receive remote instruction during their time in quarantine.
- Practices around **ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette** will continue at school.
- Ridgewood will continue to offer optional FREE in house diagnostic and screening testing through our nurse's office and Northshore Laboratories.

Changes in guidance from federal, state or local health officials or an increase of illness at school or our community could cause changes in practices throughout the year.

Health and Wellness.

Health Protocols

- On a daily basis, families will ensure that they will not send their student(s) to school if they exhibit the following symptoms:
 - Fever (100.4°F or higher);
 - New onset of moderate to severe headache;
 - Shortness of breath;
 - New cough;
 - Sore throat;
 - Vomiting;
 - Diarrhea;
 - New loss of taste or smell;

- Fatigue from an unknown cause;
 - Muscle or body aches from an unknown cause.
- A parent will be notified and the student will be sent home if they have a fever of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or exhibiting any of the above listed symptoms.
- The School Nurse or an RHS Administrator will contact the student's guardian to determine how the student can return home for the remainder of the day.
- The student should not return to school until current symptoms have subsided and the quarantine period has expired, if applicable.
- **When returning to school, the student must check in with the RHS Nurse before returning to in-person classes.**

If a student becomes sick or feels ill while in school:

- The student should report directly to the Nurse's Office for an evaluation of symptoms and to assess needs.
- The student will remain in the Nurse's Office until a guardian can be contacted and spoken to.
- To maintain the health and safety of the larger school population, the student will be sent home from the Nurse's Office **OR** given the option to test for COVID-19 with guardian/parent permission.
- The room or area where the student was located will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidelines.

If a student becomes sick while not in school:

- Students who are sick or exhibiting any of symptoms related to COVID-19 should **not** come to school.
- The student's guardian should contact the RHS Attendance Office at 708-456-4242 x1258 or email the Attendance Clerk, Christine Olivo (colivo@ridgenet.org) with specific information regarding their student's illness, including current symptoms.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19:

- The student's guardian should contact Candace Reid, the RHS School Nurse, at 708-456-4242 x1268 with specific information regarding their student's illness, including current symptoms.
- The student must quarantine in accordance with supplied guidance from the RHS Nurse and IDPH/ CDC guidelines.
- RHS School Officials will alert the school community that an individual within the school has tested positive for COVID-19. The communication will protect the confidentiality of the individual and will also contain a symptom checklist that families can use at home in the event their student may begin to exhibit symptoms themselves.
- The School Nurse will contact local health agencies to alert them to the positive COVID-19 case. Based on the facts of the case, the local health agency may decide a contact-tracing investigation is necessary to determine if any staff members or other students may be at risk of contracting COVID-19. The RHS Nurse and School Administrators will assist in the investigation as needed.
- All areas of the building the student had been in contact with will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidelines.

- The School Nurse will remain in contact with the student's guardian for the duration of the quarantine period to track symptoms, assess any current educational/family needs, and gauge the recovery process.
- The student will be required to see the School Nurse (or RHS School Administrator if the School Nurse is not available) for an evaluation before returning to any class or other area of the school building.
- Students in quarantine will receive remote instruction during their time in quarantine.

Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Hand sanitizer will be placed in common areas throughout each school building. Our building has signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing, or sanitizing must be done before and after contact with students. It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; following restroom use; before food preparation or before and after eating; before/after routine care for another person, such as a child; after contact with a person who is sick; upon return from physical education; and following glove removal.

Classroom Guidance

- Teachers will keep a seating chart for contact tracing purposes.
- Encourage hand washing throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms.
- Clean classrooms daily.

Hallways, Main Office, Common Areas

- Hand sanitizer will be easily accessible around the school in common areas and hallways.
- Clean high touch areas throughout the day.

Operations

Recommendations for Families

- State of Illinois mandated health examination and vaccine requirements will be due by October 15, 2022.
- Please make sure all emergency contact information is up to date before the start of the school year.
- Please make sure to assess your student(s) each morning to ensure they are not exhibiting any COVID-19-like symptoms before sending them to school.
- **If your child is experiencing any illness symptoms, they should stay home.**
- The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated **every flu season** with rare exceptions. Due to the fact that flu symptoms overlap with COVID-19 symptoms, it's encouraged to vaccinate your children for influenza this fall.
- When reporting absences related to illness, please be sure to report if your child:
 - Has been in close contact with someone positive for coronavirus
 - Is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus

- Has been diagnosed with coronavirus
- Has been diagnosed with influenza (respiratory flu)

Communication

Communication Methods:

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Ridgewood High School District 234 will utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on changes regarding all protocols and vaccination opportunities:

- [D234 website](#)
- Phone, text and email alerts
- Principal Biweekly Newsletter
- Tri-annual Ridgewood Newsletter
- D234 social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#))

All parents/guardians who wish to receive communication should make sure email addresses and phone numbers are up to date and follow RHS social media for more timely updates.

Who do I contact if...

- My student tests positive for COVID-19?
 - School Nurse, Candace Reid, ext. 1258
- I am a staff member who tests positive for COVID-19?
 - School Nurse, Candace Reid, ext. 1258

So there was a confirmed case in RHS... now what?

- We will immediately notify local health officials. The local health officials will help the RHS administration decide a course of action.
- IDPH guidelines will be followed for the purpose of quarantine.

My student tested positive for coronavirus, how can they return to school?

- The student's guardian should contact the Candace Reid, RHS School Nurse, at 708-456-4242 x1268 with specific information regarding their student's illness, including current symptoms.
- As new guidance emerges, ***guidelines may change.***