

 **Rankin School District #98**

 **2023-2024 School Year**

 ***”Leadership Builds Community”***

Updated March 8, 2024

Plan subject to change

Our School Plan is fluid and should be considered “subject to change” as the District will continually be monitoring, evaluating, and assessing our plan. The Superintendent can update or remove the plan at any time. The date above will always reflect the most up-to-date plan.

For questions related to this plan and for ease of communication, please email Dr. Matt Gordon, mgordon@rankin98.org.

RESPONSIBILITY OF RANKIN COMMUNITY

Protecting everyone from COVID-19 and other illnesses is everyone’s responsibility and relates to the following:

* + Students and staff must stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and contact the school for a review before return. Also, it’s preferred that all students and staff experiencing signs of any infectious illness contact their healthcare provider for further evaluation.
	+ Special attention is required for students and staff when experiencing:
		- Fever - The District is considering greater than 100.4 as the threshold for fever.
		- Other symptoms of COVID-19 - The known COVID-19 symptoms can be found [HERE](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).
		- Suspecting a positive case of COVID-19
		- Awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test
		- Receiving a positive result of a COVID-19 test
		- Students/parents and staff experiencing the above need to notify the school as a determination for a plan forward will be made.

MITIGATION LEVELS

Mitigation Level determinations will be based on the data and conditions in our school and within the county our school resides in. Each Mitigation Level has additional mitigation strategies to assist in keeping the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses to a minimum. Unless notified otherwise, the District is in Level 1.

STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING RISKS AT ALL LEVELS

* + - * Regular cleaning and disinfectant procedures will be utilized.
			* Regular handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be promoted regularly.
			* Accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities who have special needs.

STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING RISKS AT LEVELS I, II, & III

* Mitigation Levels I (Baseline)
* Screening - students and staff self-monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
* Face coverings (Indoors and Outdoors) are as follows:
* For students (age 2 and older), it’s the decision of the parents
* For non-students (adults), it’s each individual’s decision
* Mitigation Level II (Moderate)
	+ Screening - students and staff self-monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
	+ Face coverings (Indoors and Outdoors) are as follows:
	+ For students (age 2 and older), it’s the decision of the parents
	+ For non-students (adults), it’s each individual’s decision
* Consideration of utilizing water fountains only for refillable bottles will occur.
	+ No visitors, unless approved by Administration for educational purposes.
	+ Students will not use locker rooms and will not change for P.E.
	+ An increase in morning before school stations will be considered.
* Mitigation Level III (Substantial)
	+ Screening - students and staff daily COVID-19 symptom checks at school are implemented (i.e. morning temperature checks and daily monitoring admission/symptom tickets).
	+ Face coverings (Indoors and Outdoors) are as follows:
	+ For students (age 2 and older), it’s the decision of the parents
	+ For non-students (adults), it’s each individual’s decision
* Contact Tracing & Exclusions- Depending on each individual situation, some contact tracing may occur. Generally, temporary exclusions for students or staff will not occur for those who are asymptomatic.
	+ Consideration of utilizing water fountains only for refillable bottles will occur.
	+ No visitors, unless approved by Administration for student services.
	+ Students will not use locker rooms and will not change for P.E.
	+ Students congregating during unstructured times will be limited to the extent possible.
	+ An increase in the number of morning before school stations may occur to allow for additional spacing.
	+ Passing periods may be tiered to allow for more distancing in hallways.
	+ Field trips, assemblies, and some programs may be canceled or postponed.
	+ Consideration of a Special Board Meeting will occur to review if additional plan guidance for the remainder of the school year is needed.

DISTRICT’S REVIEW PROCEDURES (medical)

NURSE AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE CLINICAL JUDGMENT

The District nurse’s clinical judgment and/or Administrative judgment is included in the District’s protocols for COVID-19.  The District includes this notice to help everyone understand that specific situations may cause the District to provide additional restrictions, adjustments, and/or attendance restrictions for certain situations.

SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

A process to determine whether individuals, untested, should be subject to a temporary exclusion will be utilized.

Step 1:

Check for the following symptoms, which indicate possible COVID-19 illness that puts persons at risk for spreading the illness to others:

* Fever (100.4°F or higher)
* Chills
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* Headache
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or Vomiting
* Diarrhea

Step 2:

If the individual has any of the above symptoms and/or potential exposure to COVID-19, a temporary exclusion may be implemented on a case by case basis based on all factors involved and/or via nurse or administrative clinical judgment.

Potential exposure by a person is defined as:

* Had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19;
* Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases;
* Live in areas of high community transmission while the school remains open.

MAKING A DETERMINATION

The District (Nurse or Administration) will review the information gained from the 2-step process. After considering all available information, a determination will be made and all efforts will be made to contact and/or consult with families. Typically, the District would choose from any of the following options:

* A COVID-19 test is administered and the results are evaluated
* Temporary exclusion for COVID-19 positive or probable case. Length of temporary exclusion determined on a case by case basis.
* Exclusion based on existing school illness management policy (until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications and have had no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours).  Other illnesses besides COVID-19 have specific criteria for when a student or staff member can return to school [IDPH Guidance](https://www.rankin98.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/COVID-19%7CIDPH%20Communicable%20Disease%20in%20Schools%20Guidance).
* Request medical evaluation or additional medical information from a healthcare provider
* Determine the student does not need to be immediately excluded and monitor closely

POSITIVE TEST

* Staff or students who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate for 24 hours and until both are true below:
	+ Fever-free without using fever-reducing medications
	+ Symptoms are improving overall
* Upon return and for the next 5 days, CDC recommends enhancing hygiene practices, wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distance from others when indoors as much as possible.

COVID-TESTING @ RANKIN

The District will attempt to utilize COVID-19 Testing when the District and staff or family members are mutual in agreement with the testing. Please understand that the District will ONLY utilize the Anterior Nares specimen collection process, which is just inside the nose and not intrusive. Further, it’s imperative that everyone understand that NO STUDENT WILL BE FORCED TO TEST! In order to test, we must have signed parent permission in writing for each and every test. Signed permission can be emailed to Nicole Washkowiak, District Nurse at nwashkowiak@rankin98.org.  Currently and until further notice, the costs of any District administered tests will not be passed onto to staff members or families. Please note that the District does not guarantee that COVID-19 tests are always available, and the District simply wants everyone to be aware that the District does retain the right to pass on the costs of tests to staff and students ONLY after proper, advanced notice (i.e. currently, the District is covering the costs of the tests and would only pass on costs after providing notice before a test is administered – no gotcha type situations would occur). Please feel free to contact Dr. Matt Gordon at mgordon@rankin98.org or Nicole Washkowiak at nwashkowiak@rankin98.org if you have any questions. You can also call the school at 309-346-3182 as well.

VISITORS

Visitors will follow the guidance associated with the Mitigation Level the District is operating under unless directed otherwise.