

On Campus Learning Amid COVID-19

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Revised August 2021



Welcome Back!

August 18, 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying time with your families. We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones back to campus in early September to begin the 2021-2022 school year! We are thankful for the Lord's protection of our school families and staff last year and that we were able to have a productive learning environment in person with minimal disruptions. We pray and trust that the Lord will continue to guard and sustain us in the coming school year.

Over the summer, we have been planning for this school year amidst the continuance of the pandemic. Redeemer Day School's leadership has been examining credible sources, keeping up with protocols in fellow schools, and outlining a practical and balanced 2021-2022 school year plan made specifically for the RDS community. The goal of RDS's COVID-19 approach is to keep as many of our students in school for as many days as possible as safely as possible. Many of our protocols will remain the same as our children cannot be vaccinated, but you will find that our plan has been modified from last year's to make allowances for the protection added by the vaccine.

Please read this guide in its entirety. Much of our ability to provide in person learning last year can be credited to your willingness to partner with us, and we are so thankful. Flexibility and cooperation from our school families remains key as we begin our school year. We acknowledge that, given the degree of spread in our local community, we may need to take additional precautions at particular times. We may also be able to loosen protocols, Lord willing. We ask that you bear with us and pray for us as we make decisions in consideration of our entire community.

This document outlines our plan for our return to school. Ultimately though, as I stated last year, our trust is not in our plan, experts, research, vaccines, or masks. Instead, we trust in the sovereignty and protection of our loving heavenly Father. Psalm 28:7 reminds us, "The *Lord* is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped." Thank you in advance for partnering with us. It is going to be a great year of growth for our little ones at Redeemer!

Jenny Kwon
Director, Redeemer Day School



Questions?

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Table of Contents

1

Preventative Measures

2

Parent Participation at RDS

3

It is Time to Stay Home When...

4

COVID-19 Exposure Response Process

5

Quarantining due to COVID-19
Exposure or Symptoms

6

At Home Learning Plan (if needed)

7

COVID-19 Plan at a Glance

8

RDS COVID-19 Waiver

The Lord has protected us through our 2020-2021 school year, and we trust that He will continue to do so this 2021-22 school year. We will not conduct morning health checks as we did last fall but ask that you monitor any symptoms in your household and take temps before you leave for school. Students will continue to remain with their individual class throughout the day and as they go to specials. RDS staff will wear face coverings unless vaccinated*. We will continue to maintain a clean environment with diligent hand washing and daily classroom sanitation, including toys.

MORNING AT HOME HEALTH CHECK

Instead of a carpool pre-screening each morning, we ask that parents go through the provided health check list and **conduct temperature checks at home including adults** since adults are more likely to be symptomatic than children. You must be able to answer “no” to the following questions in order for your child to attend school.

Morning Health Check List

1. In the last 72 hours, have you or any member of your immediate household had a temperature of 100.4 or greater or a fever necessitating the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen?
2. In the last 2 weeks, have you or anyone in your immediate household experienced any flu-like symptoms including the following: persistent cough, respiratory distress, chills, body aches, sore throat and/or headache? Or a loss of taste and/or smell?
3. In the last 2 weeks, have you or anyone in your immediate household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
4. In the last 2 weeks, has any unvaccinated individual in your household (not just your RDS student) been in “close contact” with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19? (Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period.)*

COHORTING BY CLASS

All students, teachers and staff will be physically on campus; however, **classes will not interact with other classes or grades during times of high transmission.**

As we begin the year, activities that historically have been conducted with multiple classes will occur by individual class as they did last year. These activities include Playball, Music, Spanish, playground time, etc.

We will also segment by class for morning and afternoon carpool, which will include physical distancing from other classes on the bridge and the use of the space beyond the bridge, as well as during early morning reading time (for enrolled students).

Each class will have their own bathroom or bathroom stalls assigned so that classes do not need to share facilities.

Cohorting allows us to limit the number of children who would need to quarantine if we were to have exposure at school. This protocol may relax if transmission rates allow.



See appendix for copy of
Morning Health Check List & Family
Waiver

*Updated from January 2021 guide in August 2021

OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Masks & Face Coverings

RDS students will not be required to wear masks or face coverings at school. As noted by the CDC and AAP, younger children (e.g., preschool or early elementary aged) may be unable to wear a cloth face covering properly, particularly for an extended period of time.

Last year, we followed guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics which acknowledged that masking might not be practical for preschoolers. They advised we “should focus on more effective risk mitigation strategies for this population. These include hand hygiene, infection prevention education for staff and families, adult physical distancing from one another, adults wearing face coverings, cohorting [segmenting students into groups] and spending time outdoors.”

Unvaccinated teachers and assistants will wear masks or face coverings at all times when at RDS.* The school requires proper fit of masks, including covering the nose and mouth.

The face covering worn by unvaccinated* RDS staff at many times will be a clear face shield which allows our students, families, and other staff members to clearly see our full face and expressions and aids in communication. We believe all of these benefits will be helpful for student learning, particularly language development and phonics during COVID-19.

While we are not requiring face coverings for parents, we may, at times of high transmission, respectfully ask parents to wear face coverings while on campus to safeguard our ability to continue in person instruction.

Handwashing

As always, **RDS will continue to be diligent in our hygiene practices**, including hand washing upon arrival at school before class begins, each time the toilet is used, before eating, and when coming in from the playground. During the first several weeks of school, additional attention will be given to proper, thorough technique. Hand sanitizer will also be readily available.

Supplies, Toys & Cleaning

Whenever possible, **each student will have their own designated supplies.** Shared toys and supplies will be cleaned daily after each use. Similar to prior years, **classrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned daily.** These areas will also be fogged occasionally.

Air Filtration Devices

Each classroom is outfitted with a medical grade HEPA air filtration machine which filters the air continuously throughout the school day. It is rated to filter out particles even smaller than the corona virus.

*Updated from January 2021 guide in August 2021

At RDS, parents' active engagement in our community and parent mentoring are cherished parts of our school's mission. Even during the pandemic, we want each family to be involved at RDS! With the introduction of the vaccine, we are thrilled to be able to resume our in-person parent events. *Parents and visitors to RDS are highly encouraged to wear a mask with proper fit (covering the nose and mouth) on campus indoors during times of high transmission and to try to maintain physical distancing whenever possible inside our outside.*

ARRIVING LATE & EARLY PICK-UP

If a parent arrives late with their student, they will be allowed to walk the child into the building. Please make sure that a teacher or an assistant receives your child. Do not let them walk to their classroom unattended or enter without being acknowledged by a teacher. If the door is locked when you arrive, call the assistant phone (404-985-6582). Call the the assistant phone to arrange for early pick-up.

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

Thursday, September 07 (10-11 am). Parents only. New Parent Orientation is a time to share more about having a successful start to the school year and what to expect.

STUDENT CLASSROOM VISIT

Tuesday, September 1. Invitation via SignUpGenius forthcoming.
To provide time in the classroom before the momentous "first day of school", families will have the opportunity to sign up to visit the classroom and see their teacher. This year we will be limiting the total number of families on campus at one time.

PARENT-TEACHER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Tuesday OR Thursday, September 21 or 23 (6:30-8:00 pm). Invitation via SignUpGenius forthcoming.

Parent-Teacher Fellowship (PTF) will once again include our large group meeting before we separate into individual classrooms. Parents will attend one of two nights to allow for smaller groups.

WEEKLY PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Each Thursday (8:30-9 pm). Virtual format via Zoom.

Our Parent Bible Study will continue to be conducted via Zoom once a week on Thursday evenings. We had more dads attend last year due to the evening hour! Since the time is after many little ones are tucked in bed, we are hopeful many parents will attend. Join on the weeks you are available; no preparation required. A Zoom invitation will be in each of the Director's weekly newsletters.

LUNCH 'N LEARNS RETURN!

Our Lunch 'n Learns, which are typically held on campus four to five times throughout the year, will return to our in-person format. More details and invitations to come.

Parents and visitors to RDS are highly encouraged to wear a mask with proper fit (covering the nose and mouth) while inside on campus during times of high transmission. If you are unvaccinated, we respectfully ask that you wear a face shield (provided by us) or mask if you are visiting a classroom.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

As before, we will enjoy celebrating our students' special day of turning one year older. Parents of the birthday child may bring in a treat for the class following the guidelines in our parent handbook and outlined in the information you will receive from your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.

MYSTERY READERS

Parents will have the opportunity to be Mystery Readers. Parents that have signed up to be mystery readers will be asked to maintain six feet distance from the students during their visit despite vaccine status. If you are unvaccinated, we respectfully ask that you wear a clear face shield (provided by us) while visiting the classroom.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is typically an opportunity for families to gather once a month after school on the playground to have a bite to eat, play, and fellowship. This year, we will have lunch bunch playdates by class to try as much as possible to maintain our cohort groups.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We plan to have Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, Thanksgiving Day Service, Christmas Program, Grandparents Day, etc. As we draw closer to each event, we will monitor whether current conditions allow us to safely gather for and/or if extra precautions need to be taken to allow us to gather.

PARENT & STUDENT GATHERINGS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

We recognize that families have different perspectives on social gatherings during the pandemic. Any gatherings that occur outside of the school are not for RDS to monitor or police. Each parent will need to make decisions for their family that they are comfortable with given their situation and beliefs. Regardless of activities outside of RDS, we will maintain the school protocols noted in this guide. **We ask that you communicate with each other if you think someone in your family may have exposed another child or parent outside of school activities.**

Parents and visitors to RDS are highly encouraged to wear a mask with proper fit (covering the nose and mouth) while inside on campus during times of high transmission. If you are unvaccinated, we respectfully ask that you wear a clear face shield (provided by us) or mask if you are visiting a classroom.

In today's environment, it is challenging to know if a little one's fever or symptom is just a typical childhood bug or COVID-19. To protect our community, RDS will need to take action as though any illness that has COVID-19 symptoms could be COVID-19. We also recognize that you know your own child. If you would like to discuss your child's particular case, please reach out to the Director to determine whether or not your child should stay home. If your student or you (if you are unvaccinated) have come in direct contact with someone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please keep your child home from RDS that day and until risk can be assessed.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- 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

SYMPTOMS OF OTHER ILLNESSES

- Any symptom of childhood disease such as chicken pox or whooping cough
- A common cold from onset
- Croup
- Any unexplained rash
- Any skin infection...boils, ringworm, impetigo
- Pink eye or other eye infection

PROACTIVELY STAYING HOME

If your child develops symptoms of illness, we ask that students remain at home and not come to school until:

- the child has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine AND
- others in the home, including parents and siblings, have been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine AND
- it has been confirmed that all individuals in the home, particularly adults, do not have a new loss of taste and/or smell.

STUDENT BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL

While uncommon, a child may come to school and then become ill – with a fever, upset stomach, or other symptoms. When this happens, a parent will be notified immediately, and we will request that the child be picked up. Until the child can be picked up, a staff member will isolate with that child and the child will be masked.

Once the parent or caregiver arrives at RDS, please call the assistant phone (404-985-6582), and your child will be brought out. Upon the child's departure, the staff member will wash their hands and replace any disposable personal protective equipment (PPE) they are wearing.



ILLNESS FOLLOW-UP PROTOCOL

In the event that a student becomes ill at school, or a family proactively keeps a child at home due to illness, our Director or another staff member will follow-up with the parent that same school day. The intent of this discussion is to gather information that may be helpful in making the determination regarding the student returning to school after illness to keep as many students attending school as possible and the broader RDS community healthy.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a tool used to quickly identify people who have been exposed to COVID-19 and alert their potential contacts. The goal of contact tracing is to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19, to identify hotspots of infection, and to protect students and our broader RDS community from potential infection.

Contact tracing includes working with people that test positive to help recall everyone they have had close contact with while infectious. **Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes within a 24 hour period to someone with a positive case of COVID-19. If an RDS student is living in the same household as an *unvaccinated** close contact they will be considered by RDS as a close contact as well.***

Should symptoms develop, contacts should schedule a COVID-19 test or seek medical treatment if needed. If contacts are not showing symptoms, an early negative test does not rule out the possibility of developing COVID-19 during the 14 days after exposure.

RDS COMMUNICATION REGARDING CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

Communication will be made to RDS families regarding COVID-19 cases within our school community, including action taken in response and any recommendations for our students and families. We will not share the names of infected students or teachers without their written permission and then, only if necessary. Specific action will be communicated by the Director.

*Updated from January 2021 guide in August 2021

SECOND DEGREE CONTACT WITH INFECTED PERSON

It is of note that the DPH does not recommend quarantine for people that are not in close contact with the infected person. As it relates to RDS, that means that **if a student or teacher in one class tests positive for COVID-19 it does not require students in other classes to quarantine. Only those in close contact will be required to quarantine.**

At RDS, we do have families with students in multiple classes (e.g., a 2 year old student and a pre-K student in the same family). If a child has COVID-19, unfortunately, that child's class and the classes of that child's siblings will be required to quarantine.

COVID-19 TESTING

While unlikely, depending on severity of the child's symptoms – or the student's family member/s, a negative COVID-19 test may be required before the student can return to school after exposure.

We are not automatically requiring COVID-19 testing for students that have "COVID-19 like" symptoms since a test result only means that the person did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing.

5 Quarantining due to COVID-19 Exposure or Symptoms

PLEASE NOTE: Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes within a 24 hour period of a positive case of COVID-19. *If an RDS student is living in the same household as an unvaccinated* close contact, they will be considered by RDS as a close contact as well.*

IN CASE OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 EXPOSURE OR POSITIVE CASE IN A STUDENT'S HOUSEHOLD*

RDS will allow a student who is considered a close contact to return to school after a 10 day quarantine with a negative test result from a test taken at least 8 days from the last date of exposure or after a 14 day quarantine with no test. We require a PCR test as it is more accurate and able to detect a developing infection.

CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 FOR STUDENT

Any RDS students diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to isolate (not attend school) until the child:

- has been fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine AND
- isolates 10 days since symptoms *first* appeared

This protocol will also be followed by all RDS staff.

COMMUNICATING EXPOSURE OR POSITIVE CASE WITH RDS

We ask that families with a confirmed case of COVID-19 illness or exposure communicate as soon as possible with the RDS Director to determine next steps and make a plan for the student's return to school as each situation may have different factors involved.

*Updated from Sept. 2020 guide on January 19, 2021



RETURNING TO RDS PROTOCOL

Before returning to school, it is required that the parent/guardian of the sick child or family member have a discussion with the Director. It is in her sole discretion to assess the situation and confirm if the child may return to school. Please be respectful of her decision.

QUARANTINE EXEMPTIONS

Individuals with a positive antibody test within the past week or providing documentation of vaccination will not need to quarantine after exposure.

Individuals with a recovery from a positive COVID test within the last three months will not need to quarantine after exposure.*

MISSING SCHOOL

In some cases, it may seem like a student is missing a lot of school due to precautions. If we find that a student is missing a notable amount of school time due to illness and/or precautions, we will personally work with the family to find a learning plan that will work for RDS and the family until the student can be physically in school again.

At RDS, we consider the “worst case scenario” as one when the pandemic takes a notable change for the worse in soaring cases, increased death rate in the broader Atlanta community, or when our RDS community is significantly threatened through widespread exposure. In this situation we will likely need to shift course resulting in closing our physical location temporarily until the situation right-sizes again. This plan may in some cases be implemented for an individual class if they are required to quarantine for 2 weeks. This page provides a glance at our “At Home Learning Plan” but is not comprehensive.

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN SHIFTS TO REMOTE LEARNING

Teachers will supply materials and support for parents as we transition to our At Home Learning Plan. A weekly parent meeting (approximately 60 minutes) will be held to go over the week’s curriculum and answer any questions. Zoom meetings will be held for the students by their classroom teacher as often as the teacher deems necessary. **Parent involvement is necessary to make this plan an effective one.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

If we are out for an extended period, similar to the spring of 2020, it would be our desire to refund a portion of tuition while still supporting our teacher and staff salaries. If we are out for an extended time, the RDS Board will meet to determine a plan that is as fair and sustainable for all parties as possible.

TWO & THREE YEAR OLD LEARNING TO BE SUSPENDED TEMPORARLY

We have found that Zoom meetings are not effective for our youngest students. Similar to the spring of 2020, we will provide materials and curriculum for parents to implement at home. Teachers will have a weekly Zoom parent meeting (approximately 60 minutes) to go over goals, objectives, and strategies. Teachers will send pre-recorded Bible lessons for their students. We will be as sensitive as possible to your individual family circumstances, providing materials and opportunities that you can implement if you desire.

SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

As we did in the spring of 2020, we will provide engaging, pre-recorded music classes for all students and Spanish lessons for Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten.

REMAINING FLEXIBLE

If we are in the unfortunate situation where RDS needs to close our physical campus temporarily, we will need to remain agile and open to ideas to create the best learning environment given the circumstances. In an effort to plan, we wanted to provide an outline of what to expect if we need to shift to a remote learning situation based on our learnings from the spring of 2020 and insights from our parents and other schools. Nonetheless, we recognize that, if necessary, the plans above may need to shift.



This page is intended to provide the highlights of our COVID-19 plan. Please see the complete guide provided on our website for more details.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

RDS plans to take the following daily protective measures: at home health check conducted by parents, cohorting classes to minimize spread and quarantine, good student hygiene and maintaining a clean school environment, air filtration, and face coverings for unvaccinated staff.

FACE COVERINGS

Children will not be required to mask at school. Parents and visitors to RDS are highly encouraged to wear a mask with proper fit (covering the nose and mouth) while inside on campus during times of high transmission. If you are unvaccinated, we respectfully ask that you wear a face shield (provided by us) or mask if you are visiting a classroom while students are present.

GATHERINGS/PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We are encouraged that we will be able to resume many of our community events this year. As we draw closer to each event, we will monitor whether current conditions allow us to safely gather for each event and/or if extra precautions need to be taken to allow us to gather. Please see the guide for more information about birthday parties, the mystery reader program, etc.

SYMPTOM CHECKING

Tracking your child's symptoms and symptoms of those in your family remains one of the most effective tools for preventing community spread. We ask that if your child has symptoms of illness, you keep them at home and communicate with the Director to determine next steps.

EXPOSURE RESPONSE

Students will be considered a "close contact" if they *or an unvaccinated family member in the same household* are within six feet of a positive individual for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. RDS will allow a student who is considered a close contact to return to school after a 10 day quarantine with a negative test result from a test taken at least 8 days from the last date of exposure or after a 14 day quarantine with no test. We require a PCR test as it is more accurate and able to detect a developing infection.

Individuals with a positive antibody test within the past week or providing documentation of vaccination will not need to quarantine after exposure.

Individuals with a recovery from a positive COVID test within the last three months will not need to quarantine after exposure.

POSITIVE CASE IN A STUDENT

Any RDS students diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to isolate (not attend school) until the child:

- has been fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine AND
- isolates 10 days since symptoms first appeared

This protocol will also be followed by all RDS staff.

Please print, sign, and return this waiver (attached to the email with this guide) by the first day of school, September 8, 2021.

Redeemer Day School 2021-2022 COVID-19 Waiver

Each parent and any care provider (e.g., grandparent, sitter, nanny, etc.) that will be interacting with RDS as a part of caring for a student.

Redeemer Day School ("RDS") is hereby providing notice to me/us that it currently intends to open its educational and school program for the 2021-22 school year. I/we understand that "RDS" cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks which may be encountered as a result of my child attending "RDS". I/we realize there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and hazards which independently or in combination with any activities engaged in while participating in this program may result in the exposure to certain risks including exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agents, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization or death.

I/we hereby state that I, on behalf of my child/student and myself, am an adult, over the age of 18, and legally competent to sign this form. I/we understand these inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing its educational program and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious or predictable, and hereby intend this release to extend to injury or loss which results from both obvious or predictable risks, as well as risks that are unpredictable and not obvious and to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable.

I/we understand that COVID-19 can lead to severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death. Participating in Redeemer Day School daily activities or accessing our facilities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. Redeemer Day School in no way warrants that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in or accessing Redeemer Day School.

In consideration of myself and my/our child/student participating in Redeemer Day School's educational and school program, I/we, and any legal representatives, heirs and assigns, hereby release, waive, and discharge Redeemer Day School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness or exposure to and/or contracting the corona virus (COVID- 19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent by me or my/our child/student's attendance at and participation in Redeemer Day School's educational program, including any medical expenses, injury and/or death.

I/we agree to indemnify Redeemer Day School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student's participation in the aforementioned program, whether caused by negligence of Redeemer Day School, or otherwise. I fully understand, on my own behalf and on behalf of my child/student the risks associated with the aforementioned participation and assume any risk associated therewith.

This notice, release and indemnity agreement contains the entire agreement between and among the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.

The parties to this agreement hereby agree that the interpretation and enforceability of this release shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia.

I /we expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I/we understand that by signing this agreement I am giving up on behalf of my child/student and myself certain legal rights and remedies including the right for my child/student and/or myself to recover damages in the event of death, personal and/or bodily injury of any kind, property loss or damage, expenses of any nature whatsoever including attorney's fees, and other losses that my student(s) or that I may sustain in association with my child's participation in Redeemer Day School's educational program.

Name(s) of Child(ren)/Student(s): _____

I/WE HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I/WE SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY AS MY OWN FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

COVID-19 can lead to severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death. Participating in Redeemer Day School daily activities or accessing our facilities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. Redeemer Day School in no way warrants that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in or accessing Redeemer Day School.