

**River Oaks Academy**  
**COVID and New Procedures**  
**2021-2022 School Year**

In a concerted effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school building we will be following local, state and national guidelines and recommendations and adapting them to our specific situation. We will be discussing each student's situation in detail to help mitigate any difficulties they may face in implementing these guidelines and procedures. We will have ongoing discussions with all of our students and families as we move through the school year and face challenges that may come.

## **Prevention**

1. **Vaccinations.** Health authorities are presenting COVID-19 vaccines as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. ROA's entire staff has been vaccinated against COVID-19. We are not requiring students and their households to get vaccinated in order to attend ROA. We are recommending that you consult with a physician on the matter to help better determine what's best for your child and family in relation to COVID-19.
2. **Masks.** We will follow local authority on mask requirements. Currently, they are mandated, regardless of vaccination status. We will work with individual issues on a case by case basis.
3. **Distance.** Everyone should work to keep a safe distance from each other, at least 3 feet. This is the second most effective thing we can all do.
4. **Handwashing** will coincide with breaks throughout the day. Students will be trained and monitored for proper hand washing.
5. **Devices** and materials will remain as student specific as possible and cleaned before an item is shared.
6. **Symptom & Exposure Monitoring.** Everyone must self-screen for [COVID symptoms](#) and close contact exposure to others with symptoms or positive COVID-19 tests prior to entering any school related transportation or campus grounds. Regardless of vaccination status, anyone experiencing symptoms or having possible exposure needs to quarantine at home for 10 days. Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can be tested 3-5 days after exposure. If the fully vaccinated individual has no symptoms and tests negative 3-5 days after exposure, they may return to the school for in-person instruction instead of waiting the full 10 days. See Mitigation Section below for "Close Contact Exposure" definition and explanation.
7. **Arrival.** The following protocol will need to be followed upon arrival.
  - a. Hand Washing/Sanitizing will occur upon entering the building each morning.
  - b. Students will go straight to their classrooms from their car or bus.
  - c. Students cannot enter the building early and hangout.
  - d. Parents are required to pick up their student if any symptoms appear.
8. **Movement** in the building will be restricted. Students will not be allowed to interact with students from the otherside of the building. Students will stay in the same classroom, as much as possible.
9. **Bathrooms** will be used one at a time. Each user will be responsible for wiping what they used with a disinfectant wipe.
10. **Lunch** will be in the cafeteria and classrooms to allow further social distancing while eating. In some cases, students will be allowed to eat outside.
11. **Cleaning.** All classrooms and common areas will be cleaned at the end of each day.
12. **Departure** will be one at a time, maintaining safe distance.
13. **Signage** throughout the school will also serve as reminders and guidelines for prevention.
14. **Visitors** to the building will be restricted to the front office unless prior notice and approval have been given.

## **Mitigation**

1. **COVID Positive.** When someone (staff or student) has symptoms or tests positive:

- a. All exposed members of that classroom will immediately quarantine at home and switch to distance learning for 10 days.
  - b. Any others that have had close contact exposure with an infected person will also be on 10 day quarantine. Close contact is defined as at least 15 minutes of exposure within 3 feet of the infected person; any more than 15 minutes and less than 3 feet, requires quarantine; any exposure less than 15 minutes and more than 3 feet does not require quarantine. Mask wearing does not change this requirement although it clearly helps prevent the spread.
  - c. After 10 days, everyone will be evaluated for their return to the school.
  - d. If someone in the front office is exposed, mitigation will be dependent on what their movement through the building may have been.
  - e. Any areas an infected person has been will be sanitized.
2. **Notification.** All students, staff and families will be notified of an exposure, even if it does not involve their child, so that families can make their own decision on whether or not to switch to distance learning. Only those who have had close contact exposure will be required to quarantine.
- a. It is recommended by CDC and TEA, and it makes sense that only those that are actually exposed carry any material risk. Parents will be informed of the level of exposure their child may have had. Fifteen minutes of exposure is considered the threshold for concern.
  - b. ROA is required to report any positive COVID-19 cases to the local health authorities.

## Guidance Documents

Texas Education Agency (TEA) [SY 21-22 Public Health Planning Guidance](#)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [Guidance for COVID Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

COVID Symptoms Checklist [CDC COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

## In-Person | Distance | Hybrid Learning Models

We will start the 2021-2022 school year off in-person, but in light of recent COVID-19 news, we are initially offering 3 learning models for the first semester.

- There are 3 learning models available: (1) In-person all day (highly recommended by authorities), (2) hybrid in-person a portion of the day with distance learning for the remainder, or (3) distance learning the entire day.
- Distance learning - synchronous (the preferred option), means that the student needs to be in attendance and interactive through their device while the class is taking place. This has the advantage of earning instructional credit during the class period.
- Distance learning - asynchronous, means the student is not present when the class is taking place but does the work for the class at other times during the day. This is not recommended and comes with additional work requirements to make up for missed instructional time and meet the TEA guidelines for earning class credit. The additional work requirements are specific to the class and will be provided by the teacher.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) may change their learning model preference at any time. To communicate a change in learning models, a parent/guardian may email [info@riveroaksacademy.com](mailto:info@riveroaksacademy.com) with the request.
- If a parent has opted for distance learning and the student is in need of an electronic device, then a chromebook with charger will be provided. When the student is no longer learning through a distance model or has withdrawn/graduated from ROA, the chromebook and charger will need to be returned immediately. Failure to return these items will result in fee(s) of \$250.00 for the chromebook and \$50.00 for the charger.

## Attendance, Grading and Testing

1. Overall, there is a strong emphasis to get students re-engaged and learning again at full potential. All efforts to remove barriers and encourage students to re-focus will be made.
2. TEA has taken a hardline stance on attendance. In order to earn credit for each class, the student must attend 90% of the instructional time for that class. Time missed beyond that, must be made up, in addition to any missed assignments.
3. The grading system will be back to normal at the beginning of this school year.
4. Testing will continue this year as well. We will be evaluating students during the first week to identify their baseline and current standing in each class. If remediation is necessary, it will begin immediately.

### **COVID-19 Updates and Questions**

- If you have questions or concerns you may email them to [info@riveroaksacademy.com](mailto:info@riveroaksacademy.com) or call us 713-783-7200, or any of our cell phones listed on the Advisory document.
- If you have any suggestions for improving our safety, please let us know.