



RMSC Preschool COVID-19 Guidelines: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: August 7, 2020

Does RMSC Preschool have a COVID-19 Reopening Plan?

Yes. RMSC Preschool has formulated a comprehensive plan for reopening the school. The reopening plan follows guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Caring for Our Children (CFOC) and the reopening policies established by the RMSC.

When will we have the school reopening plan?

On July 17, the New York State Department of Education provided guidance on plan requirements for the eventual reopening of school. The governor is expected to issue guidance on the reopening of schools by August 7. After that guidance, adjustments will be made to the plan and it will be shared via email. The reopening plan will be available to all families.

Will everyone at RMSC Preschool be required to wear a mask 100% of the time?

Per RMSC policy, all adults (staff, volunteers, visitors, etc.) on the RMSC Campus are required to wear a face covering (ex., homemade sewn mask bandana, surgical mask) that covers both the mouth and nose at all times unless there is a medical exemption. For Preschool students ages 5 and under, face coverings are optional. If they do wear a facemask, parents are encouraged to send a second mask.

Will RMSC Preschool be conducting health screenings?

Yes. At arrival to Preschool, families will be asked to sign in their child and answer the series of screening questions related to the presence of potential COVID-19 symptoms, potential exposure to individuals suspected of having COVID-19, and regarding travel from designated states to New York State which are on the list for spikes in COVID-19. In addition, all students will have their temperatures checked with a contactless thermometer.

What will arrival and dismissal procedures look like? Am I able to walk my child to their classroom?

In an effort to maintain social distancing between adults, there will be changes to our arrival and dismissal procedures. Parents and visitors will not be permitted to drop off at the classroom door. This policy is in place to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. We are identifying spaces in the building that would allow for arrival in a socially distant manner. We have several procedures under consideration which may include: one way travel through the space for drop-off, a table for each class for check-in, or curbside drop off. More details will be forthcoming.

What will be different inside the Preschool when in person instruction resumes?

We're working hard to not only maintain the high-quality program you expect from the RMSC, but to keep your families safe and healthy while doing so some aspects of the Preschool will look different. We'll be following all guidelines set by the county, state, and CDC and safeguards based on those guidelines have been put in place. This includes hand sanitation stations as well as bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the building and in classrooms. Common areas such as hallways and the entryway will be marked to remind people to practice social distancing. Signage will provide instruction about good hygiene including washing hands with soap and water and using hand sanitizer, practicing social distancing and wearing facial coverings. We have coordinated with Genesee Community Charter School to identify separate entrance areas for each school. Families will not be granted key cards in order to minimize visitors in the building.

Each class will be considered a cohort. The purpose of a cohort is to limit the number of people that are in contact with each other. It will also make contact tracing more manageable. A cohort will not interact with another cohort. For example, there will be one group/cohort on the playground equipment at the same time. Teachers will also plan accordingly to limit the number of students in one area of the classroom at a time. For example, instead of four students at a table for a project, there may be two. Upon arrival, students will wash their hands before playing. Once in the classroom, students will also use proper hygiene (handwashing and hand sanitizer) before and after play with materials in the classroom.

When possible, classroom windows should be open to provide fresh air. HVAC Systems have been maintained and serviced this summer. RMSC Preschool continues to work with our Facilities Team to coordinate the service and cleaning of our HVAC systems.

Will there be extra cleaning at the RMSC Preschool?

New protocols are in place for daily cleaning and sanitizing by teachers and Physical Facilities staff. To provide higher levels of sanitation in the classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and shared spaces, Physical Facilities staff will conduct deeper cleaning regimes throughout the day, followed by intermittent deeper cleaning and disinfecting with a handheld electrostatic spray gun.

Will there be virtual/remote learning available for my child?

At this time, we are planning for in-person instruction only. There are no plans for virtual learning or take home kits to support a distance learning model.

What is the protocol for a suspected or unconfirmed case of COVID-19?

Staff will not be allowed to work and students will not be permitted to attend school if the daily screening reveals potential COVID-19 symptoms or exposure.

If a student develops a fever or symptoms of illness they will be brought to a temporary isolation space to limit exposure and wait for their parent/caregiver to arrive. Parent/caregiver will be required to pick up the child immediately. An adult will stay with the child until the parent/caregiver arrives. Follow up with the child's pediatrician must take place which will determine the appropriate next steps.

What will happen if a child or teacher tests positive for COVID- 19?

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, RMSC must immediately notify the state and local health department. RMSC Preschool will cooperate with contact tracing, isolation and quarantine regulations. Rigorous cleaning and sanitation of the contaminated area will be dictated by the guidelines as established by the MCDH and the CDC. The COVID-19 positive staff member or student may only return to Preschool with written permission from a medical professional. If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, those persons with direct contact will be notified immediately as the Monroe County Health Department contact tracing process begins.

If the school does not open as planned, would we receive a refund of what we paid so far (the 2 monthly payments, less the \$100 of the deposit)?

Yes, if for some reason we cannot open as planned due to a situation like a state-wide mandate, etc., families would receive a full refund of what was paid so far, less the \$100 deposit.

If we decide to withdraw from the preschool before school starts, would we receive a refund of what we paid so far (the 2 monthly payments, less the \$100 of the deposit)?

The payment that you make allows us to move forward with our planning which is based on enrollment (supplies, hiring, etc.) with the anticipation that the child will be in attendance. If a family/parents decides to pull their child from preschool before school starts (and we are opening as planned), they would NOT receive a refund of what they had paid so far.