

Raymond Central Public Schools Board of Education Special Meeting

Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM Central

Raymond Central Jr-Sr High School - Mustang Room

1800 West Agnew Road

Raymond, NE 68428-9783

Present: Matt Blanchard, Brad Breitreutz, Cathy Burklund, Dr. Harriet Gould, Bill Lange, Derek Matulka. Also attending was Lynn Johnson, Superintendent.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Gould called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion to Excuse Board Member's Absence

All members were present.

Public Forum on Safe Return to School Plan

Discussion Items

Review the 2021-22 Safe Return to School Plan/Respond to Forum Comments

The updated Safe Return to School Plan was reviewed. The use of masks on school buses is still undecided at this time. The plan is to report number of cases as a District periodically.

Action Items

Approval of Staff Resignation(s)

Motion by Blanchard, second by Breitreutz to accept the resignation of Rebecca Ries as Valparaiso Paraeducator. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

Approval of Staff Appointment(s)

Motion by Blanchard, second by Lange to approve staff appointments: Deanna Priefert as .51 FTE 3-Year-Old Preschool Teacher, BA+27, Step 7; Kristi Meier as Ceresco Paraeducator; Michelle Gerdes as Jr-Sr High School Paraeducator; and Carolyn Enevoldsen as Assistant FBLA. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

Approval of Substitutes

Motion by Burklund, second by Matulka to approve Lindsay Shanahan as substitute nurse; and Steve Johnson as substitute teacher, paraeducator, food service. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Breitreutz, second by Blanchard to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 PM. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.



Raymond Central Public Schools
Agnew • Ceresco • Davey • Raymond • Valparaiso

2021-2022 Safe Return to School Plan

Raymond Central Public Schools will continue to review and update the Safe Return to School Plan throughout the school year as the risk of COVID-19 spread in our community changes. After our recent meeting with local public health entities and after reviewing the feedback from our parents/guardians we are not making any major changes to the draft plans. Though we are currently seeing a recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases in our area, our plan is aligned with current recommendations. The current plan does include additional information/details regarding the general mitigation protocols.

We had seven people provide responses to the draft plan via the link on our website. Five of the seven respondents felt that the draft protocols were appropriate while two of the seven respondents supported more stringent protocols to include masking, particularly for those that aren't age eligible for vaccine.

We will continue to consult and respond to the guidance that is provided to us through the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), Three Rivers Public Health Department, Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Education. Please note that as protocol changes we will communicate with our parents/guardians and students primarily through email and our website. Families need to be ready to respond to revised protocol through the year which could include making face coverings required. Protocols and requirements may change for a specific building, program, or classroom based on positive cases, contact tracing, community positivity and risk of spread.

It is important to note that this is fluid. We meet weekly with our public health entities and it is certainly likely that these plans may be changed before school gets started. This is our plan at this point and time.

Coordination with Local and State Health Officials:

District personnel will continue to meet and coordinate regularly with local public health officials through regularly scheduled county-wide meetings, educational service unit collaboration, and web-briefings hosted by the Nebraska Department of Education. The main public health partners for Raymond Central Public Schools will be Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) and Three Rivers Public Health

Department . Feedback, guidance, mitigation practices, or response steps proposed by other public health leaders or provided through the CDC will be filtered by our district personnel to try to create consistency and stability for our families.

Self Screening Measures:

Raymond Central Public Schools will continue to promote the regular use of the [self screening protocol](#) by students and staff. Additional screening measures such as temperature checks may be used for specific programs, activities, classrooms, or schools if determined necessary because of local conditions, required self-monitoring due to COVID-19 exposure, or in response to a COVID-19 outbreak. Students and staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are advised to stay home and work with health care providers.

Physical Distancing and Facility Modifications:

The district will retain the ability to make facility modifications to promote physical distancing during potential times of higher levels of community spread or in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19. This may include classroom furniture spacing and layout, the use of desk and table dividers in the classroom or at lunch, and signage and other floor markings which denote proper spacing in high traffic indoor spaces such as the school cafeteria. Other proactive considerations related to physical space and setting may be made at the school level. Examples could include lunchroom seating assignments at lower grade levels; location, setting, or spacing at large gatherings (e.g., using outdoor space when feasible); or the use of alternative nursing office locations for symptomatic individuals.

Handwashing and Coughing Etiquette:

Signage will continue to be posted throughout schools promoting good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices. Hand sanitizer will continue to be readily available in classrooms, near school entrances, in lunch rooms, high traffic school common spaces, and on school buses. Teachers with students in younger grade levels will continue to have routines for hand washing/sanitizing on regular intervals and at key times such as before and after lunch. Staff will also provide direct instruction to younger students on proper coughing etiquette practices.

Ventilation:

Air filters will be changed more frequently than would be typical and the number of fresh air exchanges that occur will continue to be equal to or greater than manufacturers recommendations.

Cleaning:

Practices which emphasize more frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces will continue to be utilized by school staff. This would also include settings such as a school bus and venue spaces where students or staff may gather indoors (e.g., cafeteria). Cleaning solutions will be aligned with CDC recommendations. In the event of an outbreak or increased prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, the district may revert back to 2020-21 cleaning protocols, including regular use of the electrostatic sanitizing gun in large, confined, and frequently used spaces which would be inefficient to clean by hand with greater regularity.

Food Service:

Students will be asked to sanitize hands when entering the food service area to promote safety when utilizing high touch shared utensils. Other practices may be put in place such as food service staff distributed fruits and vegetables K-5 and frequent cleaning and/or replacement of shared utensils for in self-service features of the lunch program 6-12.

Enhanced COVID-19 Mitigation Practices:

Strategies may be applied in whole or in part in response to a building COVID-19 outbreak or elevated levels of risk because of high levels of community spread. These practices may be used broadly across an entire school or targeted within an individual classroom/program to keep schools open and people safe and healthy. Students, staff, and families will be notified of the need to employ any of the strategies below along with the corresponding rationale. Once applied, the continued need for the use of any “enhanced” practices will be reevaluated at minimum every two-weeks to ensure they are in place no longer than necessary. The anticipated need for these strategies is greatest at school levels where students have not yet received the opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

- Required use of face masks
- Lunch table barriers or de-densification of lunchroom spaces
- Cohorting students in indoor settings
- Postponement of large indoor non-extracurricular school gatherings (i.e., assemblies)
- Increased spacing and considerations for respiratory output in classroom layout
- Reduced use, or more frequent cleaning, of shared resources and equipment
- Increased frequency of hand washing or sanitizing

Face Coverings

The Raymond Central Schools plan for face coverings is influenced by the current community conditions and recommendations from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and Three Rivers Public Health. **Please note:** The requirement for face coverings may change between optional, recommended, or required based upon an identified high risk of spread within the community, school building, program or classroom. Any broad (e.g., school, program, etc.) or targeted (e.g. classroom, bus, etc.) requirements for masking will only be applied for the limited period of time necessary to mitigate an elevated risk or uncontrolled spread in the school setting. Any requirement for masking will be evaluated at regular intervals to ensure the strategy was not in place longer than necessary.

- **Staff and Students**

For staff and students who are fully vaccinated, face coverings are **OPTIONAL**. For staff and students who are not fully vaccinated, face coverings are **RECOMMENDED** but not required. This status will be based on a self-identified system.

- **Volunteers and Visitors During the School Day**

For volunteers and visitors who are fully vaccinated, face coverings are **OPTIONAL**. For volunteers and visitors who are not fully vaccinated, face coverings are **RECOMMENDED**. This status will be based on a self-identified system.

- **Transportation - Buses**

We will follow the guidelines used in the school building unless there are federal or state requirements that would necessitate the use of face coverings. <This is still being evaluated on the basis of the federal guidelines for public transportation which indicates that drivers and passengers MUST wear face coverings.>

**Protocols for use of face masks are differentiated between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to stay consistent with public health recommendations and messaging. Vaccination status is based on an honor system. Proof of vaccination may be required in limited circumstances at the advice or direction of the health department. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after a final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.*

COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines will not be required by Raymond Central Public Schools.

Quarantine and Exclusion From School

Raymond Central Public Schools will follow the recommendations from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and Three Rivers Public Health when making decisions regarding exclusions from school. **Two avenues consistently present in guidance to avoid quarantine involve becoming fully vaccinated or wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces.**

- **Protocols for Close Contacts**

The following are the protocols if you are identified as a close contact with a positive case. Click [here](#) to review current parameters established by LLCHD and [here](#) for a close contact flowchart.

Vaccinated individuals **WITHOUT** symptoms need to self-monitor for symptoms, but no longer need to quarantine or miss school as long as they remain symptom free.

Unvaccinated individuals **WITHOUT** symptoms will still need to stay home for 10 days without testing, or 7 days if they receive a negative test after the 5th day.

ALL close contacts **WITH** symptoms still need to quarantine for the full 14 days, even with a negative test result.

- **Normal Exclusion Policy**

Students excluded under the [normal exclusion policy](#) do not need to be tested and we will use our normal return to school policy. The following are exceptions to our normal return to school policy and will be treated as a COVID case:

1. Lose of the senses of smell and/or taste, or
2. Is a known close contact of a positive COVID 19 case and is not fully vaccinated

Extended School Absence Due to Isolation or Quarantine:

Absences from in-person school as a result of extended isolation or quarantine will be handled using standard procedures. It will be the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian to contact their child's teachers to coordinate any missing work because of the absence.

Communication:

Students, staff, and visitors with direct exposure to someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis (i.e., close contact) with the need to self-monitor or quarantine will be notified by school staff either by phone or email.

Remote Learning:

The District plans to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2021-2022 school year. The only possibility of another education setting would be if there is a state or federal mandate that requires another course of action. The Remote Learning Program will not be an option for any student during the 2021-22 school year. Students who are in MS/HS should contact their guidance counselor to set up a class schedule. Extended excused absences from in-person school (including those in exclusion) will be handled as they were prior to the pandemic. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their teachers and make up work which has been missed because of any absence. The school staff will work with the students on an individual basis and use a variety of tools to assist the student in their efforts to continue their learning in these situations.

Continuity of Services:

If the district is closed due to a mandatory closure by state or federal officials, ALL K-12 students will have a digital learning tool provided to ensure continuity of instruction. In addition, students will continue to be provided accommodations as stated in their IEP or 504 plans during remote learning. Parent input will be sought to develop a plan for the provision of remote IEP services and student progress will be reviewed by the student's team when in-person learning resumes.

If the school district is closed due to mandatory closure by state or federal officials, breakfast and lunch may be provided to students through a USDA approved system. School counselors and mental health support staff will be available online by appointment for any students or staff in need of assistance.

Children with Disabilities:

Students receiving specialized services through an IEP or a 504 plan will continue to receive accommodations, modifications, and support consistent with their individualized plans. Protocols utilized during the 2020-21 school year for determining appropriate individualized accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will be used during the 2021-22 school year.

Communication of a Positive Case:

We will continue to communicate with individuals who are identified as high risk close contacts with a positive case. We will make biweekly posts on our website regarding positive cases and quarantines if the trend data suggests that there is a need to do so. The school community can monitor the positive case numbers in our community through the public access resources from the public health department and/or state health department.