

TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# CREW APPROACH TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

UPDATED AUGUST 19, 2022



# WELLNESS STRATEGIES

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>COVID VACCINATION</b>                         | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>UPGRADED FACILITIES</b>                       | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>CLEAN AND DISINFECTED SPACES</b>              | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>RESPONSE TO POSITIVE COVID CASES</b>          | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>COVID TESTING TOOLS</b>                       | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>STAYING HOME IF UNWELL</b>                    | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS</b>                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>MASKS WEARING</b>                             | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</b>                | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>SUMMARY CHART OF PROTOCOLS BY COVID LEVEL</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>                       | <b>11</b> |



In School Year 2022-23, Two Rivers will continue its commitment to the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. That means closely monitoring and following local and national health guidance as it relates to COVID-19 and other illnesses. Based on current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), DC Health, and the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE), Two Rivers commits to:

### COVID-19 Vaccination

Two Rivers will continue to promote COVID-19 vaccination and comply with DC's health requirements for attending school.

Two Rivers strongly recommends all students and eligible family members get vaccinated for COVID-19 and stay up-to-date on available boosters. Vaccine Ambassadors, parents in the community with health expertise, can help answer questions or assist in finding vaccination sites. More information can be found at <https://www.tworiverspcs.org/current-families/vaccine-ambassadors>.

In accordance with DC law, students who are of age to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that has been fully approved by the FDA are *required* to receive the vaccination in order to attend school. Students have 70 days to receive the COVID-19 vaccine from their qualifying birthday (for example, by turning 12) or the date of final approval by the FDA (whichever is sooner). As of July 8, 2022, Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for 12-15 year-olds has been fully approved. Accordingly, all students ages 12 and older *must* receive their COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend school. Students in this age group have until September 16, 2022 to be in compliance (or 70 days after their twelfth birthday for students turning 12 after July 8, 2022).

All school vaccination requirements are detailed here. Eligible students are required to receive the vaccination by DC's "*No Shots, no school*" policy unless they have submitted a religious or medical exemption to DC Health.

If your child has received their COVID-19 vaccine or booster since you last submitted information to Two Rivers, please email your child's updated COVID-19 vaccination card or medical records to [medical@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:medical@tworiverspcs.org). It's critical that we have accurate records for purposes of determining quarantines and administering our Test-to-Stay program.

Two Rivers is continuing to require staff to be vaccinated. As of November 1, 2022, all new and returning Two Rivers staff will be up-to-date on their vaccination unless they have a religious or medical exemption.

## Upgraded Facilities

Our buildings and spaces are set up to minimize the exchange of droplets in the air, eliminate avoidable activities that contribute to spread, like touching bathroom fixtures, and maintain germ-free surfaces:

**Improved ventilation:** Two Rivers has taken several steps to ensure excellent ventilation in our buildings based on a study by an outside consultant. First, in order to increase air circulation, the HVAC system runs two hours earlier and two hours later than the pre-COVID schedule. Second, we upgraded our air filters to MERV -13 and cleaned the air handler units. Finally, bipolar ionization air filtration systems have been installed in each of our buildings to attach to and deactivate pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2. While these ventilation improvements were made in response to the pandemic, they are permanent changes that will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

**Touchless fixtures:** Throughout Two Rivers' facilities, bathroom faucets are now touchless, as are water bottle fillers. These measures help stop the spread of pathogens from high-touch surfaces.

**Health suites:** Two Rivers is proud to have a dedicated health suite associated with each of its schools that is staffed by a nurse in partnership with Children's National. In School Year 2022-23, students who develop symptoms of COVID while at school will be seen by their school nurse. We additionally have a Patient Care Technician (PCT) and the licensing needed to conduct rapid antigen COVID tests on the spot, should the nurse recommend one. Our health partners will help us to quickly identify students who can remain at school and those who need to be sent home due to illness.



## Clean and Disinfected Spaces

Two Rivers had strong cleaning protocols in place prior to the pandemic to prevent the spread of flu and other communicable illnesses. During the pandemic, we have further strengthened our cleaning protocols:

Two Rivers has secured additional daytime cleaning staff per site. The cleaning staff are trained to follow CDC guidelines to ensure high touch surfaces and high occupancy spaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day. These spaces include all door handles, handrails, elevator buttons, and restrooms.

All spaces in use are cleaned and disinfected nightly by the evening custodial crew. The Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic System is used to deep clean in the event that any contagious illness is identified (*e.g.*, flu).

All classrooms are equipped with cleaning and sanitizing supplies so that surfaces can be cleaned by teachers before and after meals and after transitioning of shared student equipment. Supplies include paper towels, cleaning solutions, and Purell Foodservice surface sanitizer. All cleaning supplies are secured and kept out of the reach of children.

At our main entrances and reception desks, we have contactless thermometers and sneeze guards.

Throughout our buildings, we have installed hand sanitizer stations.

## Response to Positive COVID-19 Cases

If anyone present onsite at Two Rivers tests positive for COVID-19, Two Rivers will respond and communicate with our school communities in the following ways:

**Step 1: Identify close contacts.** When we learn that a person with COVID-19 has been present in one of our school buildings, Two Rivers' Patient Care Technician will immediately work to identify any students and staff who are "close contacts." According to DC Health, students are defined as close contacts if they are less than 3 ft apart from a positive person for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more during the day during low exertion activities (*e.g.*, working at desks). During high exertion activities (*e.g.*, a game of basketball in the gym), those who are within 6 ft for 15 minutes or more during the day are defined as close contacts. Two Rivers contact tracing protocol identifies close contacts at school for the 48 hour period prior to the positive individual's onset of symptoms or positive test (whichever came first).

**Step 2: Provide guidance regarding isolation and the Mask to Stay program.** The positive individual and any close contacts will receive guidance from Two Rivers. Persons who are positive are required to isolate for a minimum of five (5) days from the date of the positive test or symptom onset (whichever is earlier). On Day 5, they may take a COVID test (rapid antigen or PCR). If the test is negative, they may return on Day 6 with an additional negative test the morning of their return. If the test is positive, they may continue testing until negative and return on the next day with an additional negative morning test.

Persons who are close contacts will be required to participate in **Mask to Stay**. Mask to Stay is a protocol whereby persons exposed to COVID remain at school safely by wearing a mask for a ten day period following their exposure. Close contacts additionally must take a test (rapid antigen or PCR) 3-5 days after their exposure. Two Rivers will engage PCTs to verify or provide testing.

Families in need of a test can visit one of DC's COVID Centers. More information [here](#).

**Step 3: Notify staff and families.** After notifying any close contacts identified, Two Rivers will notify the crew the case occurred in via a ParentSquare message to the crew. On a weekly basis, Two Rivers will report on total cases at each school and the COVID level based on CDC and school metrics.

**Step 4: Clean, sanitize, and disinfect affected areas.** If a positive COVID-19 case is reported, the classroom or work area for the identified individual will be disinfected by our facilities management team using the Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic System. The custodial services team cleans, disinfects, and sanitizes all of the surfaces in the room. This process will occur within 24 hours of the reported case.

## Engage COVID Testing Tools

Two Rivers will use both symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 testing tools to reduce and detect spread onsite. While we previously relied heavily on PCR testing, due to test access, test affordability, and the importance of avoiding false positives based on past infections, in School Year 2022-23, Two Rivers will rely on rapid antigen tests for all school-related purposes.

### Symptomatic Testing

#### *Sick Students during the School Day*

If a Two Rivers student becomes sick during the school day with symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 found [here](#) (fever, headache, sore throat, loss of taste, fatigue, etc.), the student will be escorted to the health suite. A Patient Care Technician (PCT) with the training and licensing needed to conduct rapid antigen COVID tests will be available at each school in the event that the nurse recommends one. Our health partners will help us to quickly identify students who can remain at school and those who need to be sent home due to illness.

### Asymptomatic Testing

#### *Surveillance Testing*

During low and medium COVID levels, Two Rivers will engage in targeted surveillance testing focused on crews where there is a positive case and higher risk activities (e.g. sports). In high conditions, Two Rivers will broaden its testing approach to surveil approximately 20% of each grade level. Families are always notified regarding positive test results and the child will need to be picked up immediately; please note, if your child tests negative during screening testing, there will be no notification.



If you would like to opt your child out of testing for the 2022-2023 school year, please complete the survey [here](#) and indicate that you wish to opt out. We will not automatically opt out students based on last year's preferences, so please complete the form above if you would like to opt out your student from asymptomatic testing.

#### *Test to Return*

After extended breaks, such as Fall, Winter, and Spring Breaks, Two Rivers students will be required to take a rapid antigen test prior to returning to school. We will provide a link for all families to submit results. However, in the event that a family does not submit the required result, students will be tested upon arrival at school. It is our strong preference due to the lift on our team to support test to return that families take and submit the required test at home rather than having their child tested at school.

#### *Test to Go*

In the event that students are participating in an extended field study that may pose a higher risk of transmission, such as the overnight trip to NorthBay, and COVID levels are medium or high, Two Rivers may require all participating students to take or provide proof of a negative rapid antigen test in the 24 hours prior to the trip.

*Please note, testing provided at school does not replace treatment by your medical provider if your child shows any signs of illness and families take full responsibility to take appropriate action upon receiving the results. Families should seek medical advice, care and treatment from their medical provider if they have questions or concerns. As with any medical test, there is a potential for a false positive or false negative result.*



## Stay Home if Unwell

“Being crew” means that we look out for one another. When students exhibit any ONE of the following “red flag” symptoms, it is critical to stay at home until it is resolved or explained (e.g. by an alternative diagnosis) rather than risk spread of COVID:

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fever (measured or subjective)

When students exhibit these symptoms, they should take a test and wear a mask until symptoms clear or are explained (e.g. asthma):

- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- An unusual amount of tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Runny nose or congestion
- Diarrhea

**If you or your child test positive for COVID-19, please alert the school immediately so Two Rivers can follow appropriate protocols. You should alert your school by emailing your school’s attendance office:**

Young ES: [youngattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:youngattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

4th St. ES: [4esattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:4esattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

Middle School: [msattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:msattendance@tworiverspcs.org)





## Wear Masks

Mask wearing is welcomed but optional when the COVID transmission level is low. In medium-level COVID transmission, mask wearing is recommended for those who are immunocompromised or at high risk of severe COVID-19. In high-level transmission, all students and staff are required to wear a mask indoors at all times (except when eating, drinking, or napping) and outdoors when in close contact.

Additional circumstances when masks should be worn are as follows:

- Individuals who develop symptoms at school.
- Individuals returning from isolation or quarantine, for the remainder of the 10 days from the start of their isolation or quarantine period.
- Individuals while inside a health suite or isolation suite
- Staff providing medical care (including testing) or supervising individuals in isolation suites
- Individuals exposed to someone with COVID

## About COVID Levels & Thresholds

In addition to the COVID levels defined by the CDC, Two Rivers will use data specific to our community to integrate school-based thresholds in determining levels. A chart summarizing the CDC and Two Rivers thresholds that we will use in making a determination for each of our schools and each of our classrooms can be found [here](#).

## Get Required Immunizations

We need families to follow requirements related to the entire vaccination complement for your child. The public health risks of vaccine-preventable infections, such as measles, may be as great or even greater than those of COVID-19. In order to prevent a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak in a school setting, it is imperative for all students to be fully vaccinated according to CDC and DC Health standards. Please reach out to [medical@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:medical@tworiverspcs.org) if you are unsure about what is needed for your student to be in compliance.

**We strongly encourage all students eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.** However, COVID-19 vaccination is not required at this time for students younger than 12 years old. Visit [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov) for more information to help stop the spread of the virus. Once your child is vaccinated, please submit proof using the form attached to this ParentSquare [post](#) or by sending a copy of the vaccine card or medical record to [medical@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:medical@tworiverspcs.org). Acceptable forms of proof include the following:

- A scan or image of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, or a paper copy of an official vaccination record from a government body (if vaccinated outside of the United States); or
- A screenshot of the COVID-19 vaccination status from the DC Health database (DC MyIR) or other certification from DC Health or other jurisdiction verifying full and complete course of vaccination.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?*

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please immediately alert the school attendance team via email:

Young ES: [youngattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:youngattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

4th St. ES: [4esattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:4esattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

Middle School: [msattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:msattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

*What should I do if my child is a close contact of a person positive for COVID-19 outside of school?*

If your child is a close contact outside of Two Rivers (e.g. weekend activity, aftercare enrichment, etc.) your child must wear a mask for 10 days following their exposure and test between Day 3-5. Reach out to Cade for any assistance following this guidance.

*Will my child use shared materials?*

Hand hygiene will be promoted throughout the day. Many of our learning materials are shared so teachers will instruct students to either wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after use.

*What about students who choose not to wear face masks?*

Face masks are optional indoors during low and medium COVID levels. If the city or school moves to high COVID transmission, we will reinstate a mask mandate indoors.



## Summary Chart of Updated COVID Protocols by COVID Level

|  | Low  | Medium  | High  |
|--|--|---|---|
| Continued monitoring of community for signs of elevated risk | Definitions & Thresholds   |   |   |
|  | CDC Definition of COVID Levels + TR School Metrics   |   |   |
|  | COVID Surveillance Testing   |   |   |
|  | Weekly Asymptomatic COVID Testing Goal:<br>Targeted Testing (Crews with Pos. Cases & High Risk Activities)   |   | Weekly Asymptomatic COVID Testing Goal: 20% of each grade |
|  | Mask to Stay   |   |   |
|  | Mask to Stay for Staff and Students who are close contacts   |   |   |
|  | Test to Return   |   |   |
|  | Test to Return after COVID+ and after Extended Breaks  |   |   |
| Enhanced baseline promoting health and safety                | Air Filtration & Facilities  |   |   |
|  | Permanent upgrades to air cycling, filtration, touchless fixtures.   |   |   |
|  | Other Facilities Upgrades  |   |   |
|  | Permanent enhancements to cleaning and sanitation.   |   |   |
|  | Hand Washing   |   |   |
|  | Handwashing in Classroom Routines  |   |   |
|  | Vaccination  |   |   |
|  | Staff must be “up to date” per CDC definition and all students eligible for fully approved COVID vaccines are required to adhere to DC vaccination laws. |   |   |
| Health and safety protocols aligned to COVID levels          | Masking  |   |   |
|  | Masks optional indoors and outdoors.   | Masks optional indoors and outdoors. <b>Recommended</b> for individuals who are immunocompromised and individuals who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. | Masks <b>required</b> indoors and optional outdoors.      |

## Summary Chart of Updated COVID Protocols by COVID Level

|  | Low  | Medium   | High |
|--|--|--|------|
|  | Family Presence in Buildings   |  |      |
|  | Buildings open as normal (arrival, dismissal, conferences, community meetings, etc.) during low and medium conditions. | Possible restrictions returned to family building access if necessary to support increased spacing and contact tracing.          |      |
|  | Cohorting  |  |      |
|  | Cohorts are not maintained.  | Attention to cohort mixing and avoidance of significant mixing across crews and grades.  |      |
|  | Professional Development   |  |      |
|  | In-person PD and staff gatherings.   | Attention to opportunities to increase spacing and reduce in-person gathering.<br>Consideration of virtual options.              |      |
|  | Community Gatherings   |  |      |
|  | In-person Community Meetings and other indoor and outdoor gatherings.  | Student and family community gatherings indoors implemented with measures to support increased spacing.                          |      |
|  | Distancing   |  |      |
|  | No distancing protocols.   | Attention to opportunities to increase space to 6 ft. during unmasked periods (e.g. meals + napping) and cross-cohort gathering. |      |

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## ATTENDANCE

Young ES: [youngattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:youngattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

4th St. ES: [4esattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:4esattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

Middle School: [msattendance@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:msattendance@tworiverspcs.org)

## MEDICAL RECORDS

**Melanie Jacobs**

*Student Records Coordinator*

[mjacobs@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:mjacobs@tworiverspcs.org)

## ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

**Cade Pickette**

*Health and Safety Coordinator*

[cpickette@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:cpickette@tworiverspcs.org)

**Aurora Steinle**

*Chief of Staff*

[asteinle@tworiverspcs.org](mailto:asteinle@tworiverspcs.org)

