



RAVENA-COEYMANS-SELKIRK CSD • PO Box 100, 15 Mountain Rd, Ravena, NY 12143 • Phone: 518-756-5200 • Fax: 518-756-4561

March 4, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 122125
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02114-2516

Re: Response to Freedom of Information Law Request

Dear Mr. Parker:

This will respond to your New York State Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") request received by me on February 7, 2022, and follows my initial response to you acknowledging receipt of that request dated February 7, 2022. I am responding to your request as the Records Access Officer of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District (the "District"). In your request you seek:

For School Year 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022), who was the "Responsible Party" designated by your school district, as defined in pg. 1-2 of the New York State Department of Health's Interim Guidance For In-person Instruction at Pre-K through 12 Schools During the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency (Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf) (https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf, June 7, 2021), for:

- "...developing the plan, affirming to have read and adhere to this guidance, and meeting the standards set forth herein." pg 1
- for designated activities under the following headings outlined in the same document:
 - o Core Health and Safety Principles and Definitions
 - o Plan Requirements
 - o Monitoring
 - o Containment
 - o Closure

Please provide bonding and insurance information for all whom have been designated as the "Responsible Party" or one of several "Responsible Parties" for the above stated activities.

Please provide all plans, changes, amendments, and updates to the plans for reopening and operating during the COVID-19 public health emergency from July 1, 2021 to present, that were submitted to the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) by your school district. Please include all affirmations to the Pre_K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf received in the district office and/or delivered to the New York State DOH or/and NYSED during the same time frame.

Please provide all correspondences regarding the plan TO and FROM the designated Responsible Party or Responsibility Parties to the New York State DOH, NYSED and the county or Local Health Department from July 1, 2021 to present.

The "Responsible Party" for the School District is Dr. Brian Bailey, Superintendent of Schools.

With regard to your request regarding bonding surety, the District does not have documents relating to "faithful performance bonds or bond surety" . . . covering the superintendent and board members. Therefore, the District is not in possession or records responsive to that portion of your request.

With regard to correspondence to and from the NYSED, DOH, County or Local Health Department - No document exists in the possession of the District.

Information regarding the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk CSD re-opening plan and information is attached with the following links:

- [RCS Tiered Mitigation Reopening Plan 2021-22](#) or
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jhuMOJUcUEP6yNL-iYDqekd25VGOsCJ/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117467612451231304054&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Any other information can be found on our website at www.rcscsd.org.

Any appeal of this decision should be made within thirty (30) days, in writing to the Superintendent of School and can be contacted at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk CSD, P.O. Box 100, Ravena, NY 12143, email address: bbailey@rcscsd.org or 518-756-5200 Ext. 6003

Sincerely,



Suzanne Starr
Records Access Officer

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Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District Reopening COVID-19 Tiered Mitigation Protocols 2021-22 (Ver. 9-3-21)

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District is planning for a full return to school in September, providing strong academics and an array of extracurricular and athletic offerings. The district will employ a tiered mitigation approach, including components ranging including facemasks, facilities cleaning, hand hygiene, contact tracing, quarantining, HVAC (ventilation) and surveillance testing. [Guidance from the New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#) has served as a primary guide for this reopening plan.

This is not a simple matter of choice (preference) versus constraints (mandates). Instead, it is about keenly choosing the appropriate constraints to contend with the various stages and implications of COVID-19. A measured approach shall be taken in making adjustments to mitigate efforts based on the **transmission or rate of infections based on data from the [Albany County Department of Health \(ACDOH\)](#)** which will include the categories of Low Community Transmission>>Moderate Community Transmission>>Substantial Community Transmission>>High Community Transmission.

The intent of the tiered approach is to find and maintain a balance between **prioritizing** health and safety of students and staff, and **supporting** the social, emotional, mental health of students and staff. This tiered mitigation strategy is fluid and will be reviewed intermittently in order to ensure the stated objectives are being met.

There is a clear recognition of the polarized views on masking and vaccination. Our priority has been and will continue to be the safety of our staff and students. The mitigation strategies included in the matrix below have proven to be successful in creating a school environment. We will continue to employ the strategies that work best. The District will continue to endeavor to be responsible in terms of mitigating the spread of COVID, while balancing the provision of educational and extracurricular activities with the preservation of health and safety. These are challenging times and we are all similarly focused on the best interest of our students, our children.

RCSCSD COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols: 2021 - 2022 (Ver. 9-3-21)

- These draft layered mitigation protocols are based on the current guidance from the News York State Department of Health ([NYSDOH](#)), New York State Education Department ([NYSED](#)) and the Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)).
- These protocols will be reevaluated throughout the 21-22 school year to ensure that they are providing an effective learning atmosphere while preserving the safety of our staff and students.
- These protocols may be adjusted at any time based on directives from the State Education Department, Department of Health, or the governor.
- In the event of a change in Community Transmission rates during a school week, the District will move to the protocols for that appropriate zone on the Monday of the following week.

Mitigation Protocol	Low Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission	High Community Transmission
1 COVID-19 Vaccines	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged
2 COVID-19 Testing	Testing requirements as per the DOH	Testing requirements as per the DOH	Testing requirements as per the DOH	Testing requirements as per the DOH
3 Facemasks (indoors) August 27, 2021 NYSDOH masking directives may be found here	Required by all at all times. Exceptions for lunch and music listed below.	Required by all at all times. Exceptions for lunch and music listed below.	Required by all at all times. Exceptions for lunch and music listed below.	Required by all at all times. Exceptions for lunch and music listed below.
4 Monitoring Community and School-Based Transmission	Ongoing; weekly benchmark based on ACDOH data	Ongoing; weekly benchmark based on ACDOH data	Ongoing; weekly benchmark based on ACDOH data	Ongoing; weekly benchmark based on ACDOH data

5	Social Distancing (indoors; all distances to the greatest extent practicable)	3' distancing when practicable	3' distancing when practicable	3' distancing when practicable	3' distancing when practicable
6	School Visitors	Masked	Masked	Masked Minimal Restrictions	Masked Official business only during the day; Limited access by outside groups/organizations
7	Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged	Strongly Encouraged and Expected
8	Quarantine	Pursuant to the parameters set forth by the ACDOH	Pursuant to the parameters set forth by the ACDOH	Pursuant to the parameters set forth by the ACDOH	Pursuant to the parameters set forth by the ACDOH
9	Staying Home When Sick (Staff and Students)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Return to School/work Protocols (following illness)	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocol
11	Random COVID-19 Surveillance/Screen Testing (Staff and Students) - Rapid Testing or Pool Testing in Coordination with the ACDOH	No Surveillance Testing	No Surveillance Testing	No Surveillance Testing	Surveillance Testing at 5% per week of unvaccinated students and staff in coordination with the ACDOH
12	Cleaning and Disinfection	Daily Routine Cleaning	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of High-Touch Surfaces (school buildings and buses)	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of moderate and high-touch surfaces (school buildings and buses)	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of moderate and high-touch surfaces (school buildings and buses)
13	Cafeteria/Lunch/Breakfast	6' distancing when practicable (no mask)	6' distancing when practicable (no mask)	6' distancing when practicable (no mask)	6' distancing when practicable (no mask)

		while eating)	while eating)	while eating)	while eating)
14	Recess and Physical Education (Outdoors)	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Masks encouraged when 3' distancing cannot be consistently maintained	Masks encouraged when 3' distancing cannot be consistently maintained
15	Ventilation and Air Quality	No Restrictions	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)
16	Transportation	Mask required at all times	Mask required at all times	Mask required at all times	Mask required at all times
17	High Risk Athletics	No Restrictions	Surveillance Rapid Testing Available for unvaccinated students in High Risk Sports	Surveillance Rapid Testing Available for unvaccinated students in High Risk Sports	Surveillance Rapid Testing Available for unvaccinated students in High Risk Sports
18	All Athletics (Decisions on spectators will be made based on guidance from Section II and the Colonial Council in conjunction with RCS Visitor Protocols and current infection rates)	No Restriction	Masks required at all times	Masked and limited spectators at events	Masked and limited to no spectators at events
19	Performing Arts (Decisions on spectators will be made based on guidance from the Suburban Council and the Colonial Council in conjunction with RCS Visitor Protocols and current infection rates)	Bell covers required for wind instruments and masks required when instrumentalists, singers and actors are not at 6'+ distancing	Bell covers required for wind instruments and masks required when instrumentalists, singers and actors are not at 6'+ distancing	Bell covers required for wind instruments and masks required when not playing and for singers regardless of 6'+ distancing	Bell covers required for wind instruments and masks required when not playing and for singers regardless of 6'+ distancing

Levels of Community Transmission Indicator Chart - CDC

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10 - 49.99	50 - 99.99	≥ 100
Percentage of NAATs ¹ that are positive during the past 7 days	0 - 4.99 %	5 - 7.99 %	8 - 9.99%	≥ 10.0 %

Resources for Monitoring Community Transmission

- Reference the **COVID-19 Regional Metric Dashboard** for information on new cases reported per 100,000 persons in the last 7 days at this link: <https://forward.ny.gov/covid-19-regional-metrics-dashboard>
- Reference the **NYS COVID-19 Tracker** at this link: <https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov> for updated information about % positive COVID-19 case results.