



RUSD Headline News Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Dear Reed Union families,

We've had a great start to the year. Big thanks to parents for reinforcing the safety mitigation strategies. Our students and staff are doing great!

If you are interested in a quick, bulleted list of major concepts, you can find it here:

- [Video clip](#) from Dr. Santora (start at minute 24 if you're looking specifically for Decision Tree clarification)
- Check out these [Decision Trees](#) to better understand how we handle COVID cases
- Active COVID cases will be posted and updated biweekly on our website [here](#)
- We are actively seeking aides and [crossing guards](#)! Spread the word.
- All school districts in California are likely to have free lunches for all students if they are part of the National School Lunch Program. We are forming a small committee to brainstorm solutions for RUSD since we don't participate in the national program. However, we are committed to quality lunches, supporting our PTAs, and coming up with a solution that works for all stakeholders.

If you are interested in more detailed information, you can find it below:

Response from Dr. Lisa Santora with Marin County Public Health: We are very fortunate to be starting this school year with a critical tool that we did not have last year – vaccinations. Vaccinations are proving highly effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalizations. While unvaccinated children under 12 are a reservoir for COVID-19 activity, even with the emergence Delta, the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 remains quite low for younger children compared to the adult population. When approved by the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#), [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), Marin County Public Health will support boosters for adults as well as primary vaccination of children. While these vaccination strategies are crucial to protecting our community, we continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of a multi-pronged, layered approach to prevention strategies in the school environment. When recommended prevention strategies are followed (vaccination of all eligible

persons; universal masking; and staying home when symptomatic), school-associated SARS-CoV-2 transmission remains low.

Marin County Public Health follows CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to develop our guidance. We adapt / update our policies regularly based on the local context. We entered the school year more conservatively than most counties across the State and nation by recommending outdoor masking. We have strongly urged all school districts and schools to adopt universal masking policies – indoors and outdoors. Schools and families should be following CDC / CDPH guidance re: most effective face coverings (cloth mask with 3 layers). These masks have proven to be safe, simple and effective at reducing COVID transmission risk by > 70%. Universal masking is a key tool to support the return of all students for full-time, in-person instruction. It enables no minimum physical distancing and more targeted quarantine practices, keeping students in school.

Our Decision Tree does follow CDC guidance, which supports [shortening quarantine](#) when testing available. We also started this school year with a conservative decision tree re: symptom evaluation (requiring “Test or 10” for all symptoms, even those not commonly associated with COVID, e.g., runny nose). All exposed persons, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, should be tested 5 days after exposure. Modified quarantine allows students (who were wearing masks and had a supervised school exposure) to stay in school [students exposed unmasked during exposure {e.g., close contact eating lunch unmasked > 15 minutes} do *not* qualify for modify quarantine].

When we investigate positive cases on the school campus, we determine the following:

1. Were they at school during the infectious period?
2. Who were their close contacts? Are close contacts fully vaccinated? Were the case and close contacts masked at the time of exposure?

Public Health then determines who qualifies for modified quarantine, who must quarantine, and who should monitor for symptoms (i.e., fully vaccinated persons). We then notify all close contacts (or their parents / guardians) of an exposure to COVID-19.

Depending on the exposure, we recommend different levels of notification – notification of close contacts, classroom notification, grade-level notification, or school-wide notification. Public Health also works to identify non-school exposures (e.g., sports, sleepovers, etc.). Most transmission in our County and nationwide continues to be household and community transmissions (primarily, small private gatherings indoors when personal mask use is relaxed). Notably, this year we are finding that parents are rapidly identifying cases by using home-based testing kits. This is a great tool, but has resulted in the school community knowing of new cases before Public Health.

Local and state experiences with screening testing of asymptomatic students have been very low yield. It is a costly endeavor that requires significant time and labor, interrupts instructional time and has not proven effective in identifying cases. Therefore, we are currently not recommending screening testing of asymptomatic students. That being said, the State / CDC does identify “periodic screening testing *for assurance*” as a mitigation strategy.

Schools / districts, of course, have the option of implementing screening of asymptomatic students.

Marin County Public Health has a dedicated team working on school infection & outbreak prevention and control 7 days a week ("Schools Team"). The team includes me, nurses, public health investigators, an epidemiologist, and additional support staff. Our Schools Team works very closely with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) Rapid Response team and Marin School Nurses Organization (MSNO). Together we provide weekly training to school public health liaisons and rapid response / technical assistance for schools. We hold regular updates and feedback sessions for school leadership, labor leadership, and the parent community.

We cannot eliminate the risk of COVID exposure, but we can mitigate and reduce risk by working together. Public Health and school leadership are fully committed to open dialogue and transparency. Our [County school dashboard](#) will be updated this week. So far this school year, we *havenot* seen a significant increase in school-based transmission due to Delta. We are monitoring closely and will adapt our recommendations if we see areas of concern / opportunities for improvement. For example, this week we will be updating our guidance to recommend 1) assigned lunch seating (to reduce unmasked exposures & support contact tracing) and 2) holding large gatherings outdoors only.

Take care and stay safe,
Lisa

References:

[Requirement for Universal Masking Indoors at K-12 Schools \(ca.gov\)](#)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12->

[Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx](#)

[Get the Most out of Masking \(ca.gov\)](#)

<https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/332/2021/07/School-Testing-Considerations.pdf>

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)

Best regards,

Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District
"We are even stronger together!"

Visit our website

Follow Us on Instagram!



Please join our first meeting of the year, this Thursday, 9/2 at 9 AM at this [Zoom Link](#).

We'll hear from our Executive Director, Christina Bosch, RUSD Superintendent Kimberly McGrath, and our volunteer teams. All are welcome!

Zoom Info: Meeting ID: 853 6929 6995, Passcode: 364688

For more information on the Foundation for Reed Schools, please visit our website at www.foundationforreedschools.com

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Choice Lunch Volunteers Needed on Campus!

One of the very few essential volunteer positions at RUSD Schools this year is handing out Choice Lunch at our 3 schools. This is a great opportunity to see your child in action at school, spend time with your fellow RUSD parents and help our kids to enjoy their lunches.

Del Mar: If you have any interest, email Winnie Anderluh at delmarptasitechair@gmail.com to learn more and sign up for a shift (or two, or three)!! Shifts run from 12:00-1:00 pm daily.

Bel Aire: Commitments are for a regular “once a month” shift from 12:00-12:45 pm with 3 fellow parent volunteers. To get involved, simply submit your email [here](#) to be added to the distribution list

Reed: Signing up commits you to one day a week, every other week. It's a total of 6 days this fall. The commitment is one hour 11:30-12:30 pm at Reed. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Bel Aire Room Parents:

Are you interested in being a Room Parent for your child’s classroom at Bel Aire? The Room Parent is a parent volunteer that serves as a link between the PTA, classroom parents, the teacher and the Foundation for Reed Schools. Room Parents assist with communications from the PTA and Foundation as needed, support other parents as a key contact and help recruit additional parent volunteers as needed over the course of the year. Please contact Bel Aire PTA Site Chair Laura Smith, lauracarolinesmith@gmail.com ASAP.



Please follow the RUSD PTA Instagram page @rusdpta

If you have any great photos you’d like to share; please email them to the RUSD PTA Secretary at mickeybruce7@gmail.com #jointhepta #seewhatshappening #schoolspirit #rusdptarocks #ptasofinstagram

Support the PTA by becoming a member!

JOIN THE PTA TODAY!

**YOUR PARTICIPATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE
NOW MORE THAN EVER**

**\$30 PER FAMILY
JOIN HERE**

MEMBERSHIP DUES SUPPORT STUDENT ENRICHMENT,
COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS, PARENT EDUCATION,
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APPRECIATION, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE



RUSD is continuing our proud partnership with Choicelunch to provide school lunches for the 2021-22 school year. Take full control with their easy to use, customizable contactless lunch options. Support the PTA and feed your kids with Choicelunch. A small portion of every lunch purchased is donated to the RUSD PTA. For more information about Choicelunch, log onto www.choicelunch.com or sign up today at [Order Choice Lunch](#)

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