

RUMCK COVID Policies and Procedures

The following procedures and policies are either standard practice at RUMCK or have been added due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When a policy or procedure listed below differs from the parent or staff handbook in any way, the temporary policies in place due to COVID-19 override previous policy. Staff are familiar with and will be implementing these new policies.

Early childhood is the time for being social, learning through play, making new discoveries, and practicing new skills. Young children learn best from hands-on activities with many opportunities to interact with peers and teachers. We want to take care to honor this unique time in a child's development while keeping our children, families, and staff safe. These policies and procedures were built upon the guidance and recommendations of the Georgia Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Teacher and Classroom Interaction

Your child's teacher will not be socially distanced from him/her. Your child's class will become a group that will practice healthy hygiene and be together throughout each school day.

Teachers will have temperatures taken each day upon arrival.

Teachers will wear masks or face shields while in the school and during carpool. Because we feel it is important for our children to be able to see expression, our lips and mouths as they learn language and learn how to process feelings, we will allow the use of face shields.

Children will be limited to contact with their class for school activities. At all times these numbers and classroom ratios will be within CDC and church guidelines. The maximum number of students in a classroom will be 16.

Outside the Classroom

Classes will not be combined with another class on the playground. The playground equipment will be disinfected after each group of students play. Children will wash hands or use hand sanitizer when returning to class.

Children will be socially distanced from other classes in common areas.

Ms. Ginny, our music teacher, and Ms. Dawn, our creative movement teacher, will be socially distanced from all classes and will disinfect items used between each class. Music will be instrumentally based in the school building, and classes will be taken outside and socially distanced for singing.

Chapel will be deferred for now. The chapel message will be shared in the classroom.

Student Masks

Children should wear a mask in the school building. We realize wearing masks is a new life skill and many children have learned to wear masks during the last few months. We also recognize some children do not leave masks in place and are constantly touching them. Therefore, we encourage you to work with your child at home so that he/she is successful at wearing a mask at school. We realize this will be challenging for some, and we will gently encourage your child. We ask that you wash your child's mask or send your child to school wearing a clean mask daily.

The children will be taken outside daily, weather permitting, where masks are not necessary. There will also be a place in the classroom that is a mask-free zone when a child needs a break.

Classroom Toys & Surfaces

Classroom toys and manipulatives will be disinfected daily by teachers. All toys will be disinfected by teachers before they pass to another classroom or returned to our manipulative closets.

Any toy put into a child's mouth will be put into a "soiled toy" container and disinfected by teachers before being returned to classroom use.

All tables and chairs will be disinfected by teachers before school, snack, and lunch.

All commonly touched classroom surfaces such as light switches, doorknobs, and sink handles, will be disinfected daily by custodial staff.

Common spaces will be cleaned at intervals during the day by school and custodial staff.

Children will have their own individual items such as scissors, markers, etc.

Handwashing

Children will wash hands using proper hand washing technique before and after snack/lunch and after using the bathroom. Please practice this at home in advance to help us expedite the learning process.

Hand sanitizer will be used as children arrive each day, upon dismissal for carpool, and at other times throughout the day.

Food

Each child will bring his/her own snack, water bottle, and lunch (as applicable) to school each day. There will be no sharing of food.

Special Programs

Special programs will be handled on a case-by-case basis. When programs are announced, we will communicate our plan to implement.

Health Screenings

The most important thing we can do to keep our school free from sickness is for children who are ill to stay at home. This has always been our schoolwide policy, and guidelines now encourage programs to have a health screening procedure in place to ensure children arriving at school are not sick.

Therefore, we will be conducting health screenings and temperature checks daily. School staff conducting the screening will be wearing a mask, gloves, and have sanitizer wipes available to clean the thermometer in the event it comes in contact with skin.

While you are in the carpool line, you will be asked if your child has shown signs or symptoms of illness or taken any medication within the last 24 hours. If your answer is yes, your child will not be allowed to stay at school. Before exiting the car, your child will have his/her temperature taken. If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, he/she will not be allowed to stay at school. Your child will need to be fever and symptom free for a minimum of 72 hours (3 days) without the use of medication to be able to return to school. If your student has a runny nose, cough and/or other symptoms, he/she will not be able to attend school. A doctor's note is required to return to school after an illness.

For children who require daily medications or have ongoing medical issues that may result in such symptoms that are not contagious (such as allergies or asthma), you will need to contact your child's doctor for documentation explaining that your child's medical condition results in symptoms that are safe for school.

Health Screenings for Students Arriving Late

If your child is late for school, you will need to park and walk in the main school entrance. The parent and child should wear a mask upon entering the building. The greeter will perform the health screening and temperature check. The child will then be escorted to class by school staff. If you see another parent at the entrance, please wait outside until the parent has exited the building.

Classroom Visitors

We will have a "no visitor" policy to avoid exposure. Anyone entering the building will be given a health screening and temperature check. They will not be allowed to go beyond the greeter's desk.

Afternoon Carpool

All families will use carpool to reduce contact. Please have your carpool information displayed clearly. This will be provided for you at the children's open house.

Checking a Child Out Early

To check your child out early, you will need to park and walk in the main school entrance. The parent should wear a mask upon entering the school. The greeter will call the office and school staff will escort the child to the front desk to meet the parent. If you know that you are planning to check your child out early, please send a note to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

Sickness at School

If a child gets sick at school, he/she will be quarantined away from other students immediately and the parent will be contacted for pick up. The student will need to be fever and symptom free for 72 hours (3 days) without the use of medication to be able to return to school. A doctor's note is required to return to school after an illness.

COVID-19 School Closures

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the parent or guardian should contact the director or assistant director immediately. A health alert will be sent home and the children in that class will need to quarantine for 14 days. The classroom and all items in the classroom will be thoroughly disinfected.

If a family member living with a child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the director or assistant director should be notified. The child in contact with the family member should be quarantined for 14 days before returning to school. However, the classroom will not be shut down unless a student or teacher in the classroom has been diagnosed.

RUMCK expects each family to act responsibly, communicate with RUMCK, and quarantine any child who has been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for the safety of all students and staff. Confidentiality in these circumstances will be maintained. We ask our families to work together as we navigate this new normal.

Children's Open House

This year open house will be divided over two days and times will be assigned to allow for social distancing. Your teacher will tell you the date, time, and door you should use to enter the school. Temperature checks will be done prior to entering and all adults and children should wear a mask.

Open house provides a time for your child to become familiar with his/her classroom and for you to turn in and/or sign important documents including your child's health certificate, immunization form, release of liability/COVID waiver, and licensing exemption for the state of Georgia. You will also receive your child's schoolbag, t-shirt, security badges, and carpool information.