



2020-21 Ripon USD Reopening Plan to Maintain Continuity of Education during the Pandemic

The Ripon Unified School District, working in conjunction with the San Joaquin County Office of Education, school districts within the county, and the San Joaquin County Health Officer, plans to open school campuses on August 12th, 2020. The [San Joaquin County Office of Education 2020-21 School Year Planning: A Guide to Addressing the Challenges of COVID-19](#) will serve as the district's framework for reopening schools to classroom-based and off-campus distance learning educational options. Our Ripon Unified plan is subject to change(s) depending on local public health conditions and/or directions from the State of California.

Educational Options (As of 8/12/20)

At this time (8/12/20), Ripon USD is offering two main models of instruction in order to maintain the continuity of teaching and learning during the pandemic. Families have the option to enroll in either model for a trimester (elementary)/semester (high school).

1. All schools return to a traditional 5-day in-school classroom instructional model where additional health and safety measures as outlined in this document will be implemented.

**7/15/20

2. An off-campus distance learning option will be provided for parents who do not feel comfortable and prefer their child(ren) not return to a regular classroom environment through the first trimester/semester. This option is available to those families that completed the application prior to the July 17, 2020 deadline.

*Independent Study and Home Hospital programs will continue to be offered as short-term options when appropriate.

Health Protocols

❖ Currently, the San Joaquin County Public Health Department, the State of California and the San Joaquin County Office of Education require that staff and students 3rd grade and above wear face masks, as of July 17, 2020. *TK-2nd grade requested due to 8/3/20 COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs "Strongly encouraged". Ripon Unified has purchased one cloth mask for each student and staff member, which may be laundered at home. Face shields are also being procured for staff members. Parents have the option to allow their students to wear their own masks.

❖ Implement daily screening practices for staff and students upon entering the facilities (9/17/20).

❖ Each classroom teacher is provided with a touchless thermometer and will take each student's temperature upon entering the classroom at the start of the school day.

- ❖ Each student will be required to sanitize their hands with district-provided hand sanitizer or wash their hands with soap and water immediately upon entering the classroom.
- ❖ Students who have a temperature greater than 100 degrees will be directed to the school's health office where the student's temperature will be retaken. Parents will be contacted to pick up their child from school if the student's temperature is above 100 degrees at the designated sick area.
- ❖ The school nurse and health staff are available to respond to COVID-19 concerns.
- ❖ When required, per the California Department of Public Health COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year (Dated July 17, 2020), 50% of all school staff shall be tested each month, for a total of 100% over a two month rotating period. The school site administrator/nurse and Human Resources (HR) Department will have a list of all site or district staff, respectively. They will notify the applicable 50% of employees on the 1st business day of the month that are due for testing in the current month, with the deadline being approximately three (3) weeks from notification. This will allow time for the administrator/nurse or HR to confirm that all employees have tested before the end of that month. Process will be completed each month, with the rotation of 50% of staff each month. **8/11/20
- ❖ Information pertaining to staff and student protocols are located on the district website, on the page titled [2020-2021 Ripon Unified Reopening Information and Plan](#).

Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

Parents are encouraged to screen their student's temperature at home, and if temperature is above 100 degrees, please keep the student at home and contact the student's health care provider. Follow the school district's usual procedure to report the absence.

- ❖ Students are encouraged to keep their personal property to themselves, not to share personal items and to please keep nonschool-related items at home.
- ❖ Actively encourage students who are sick or have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home.
- ❖ Students and staff should wash their hands before sharing equipment and also after eating, coughing, sneezing, or using the restroom.
- ❖ Continue to teach students appropriate hygiene; including coughing and sneezing inside the elbow or a tissue.
- ❖ Students and staff should use hand sanitizer when hand-washing is not practicable.
- ❖ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Implementing Social Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

- ❖ Social Distancing in classrooms with students seated up to 3-6 feet apart from each other and teacher, as practicable (9/17/20).
- ❖ Suspend the use of drinking fountains. Encourage students to bring reusable water bottles to utilize the water bottle filling stations.
- ❖ Use of shared playground equipment may be limited or closed.
- ❖ Outdoor activities requiring minimal contact will be encouraged.

- ❖ Limit or suspend the sharing of objects and equipment to the extent practicable and disinfect between uses.
- ❖ Minimize contact at school between students, staff, families, and the community, especially at the beginning and end of the school day.
- ❖ Students should remain in the same space and in groups as small and consistent as practicable.
- ❖ Maximize physical space and minimize movement as much as practicable.
- ❖ Minimize congregate movement throughout the hallways as much as possible.
- ❖ Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving outside individuals will not be permitted until the County Health Officer deems it safe.
- ❖ Groupings of students at assemblies, rallies, and other events will be modified and/or suspended until the County Health Officer deems it safe to return to normal practices.

Intensify Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices

The district supports the health and safety of staff and students and strives to maintain a healthy and clean environment. Staff will ensure that frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least daily and as practicable throughout the day using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved products. Staff and students will begin each school day in a freshly disinfected classroom environment.

- ❖ Ensure all classrooms have hand sanitizer.
- ❖ Additional hand-washing stations are available at some locations where sinks or hand washing are unavailable.
- ❖ Soap and paper towels are available in the restrooms.
- ❖ Restrooms are disinfected at least twice daily.
- ❖ Classrooms are disinfected on a nightly basis.

Nutrition

Students who attend school will continue to be provided a nutritious lunch.

- ❖ Protective plexiglass sheets are installed in the serving areas of school cafeterias.
- ❖ Lunch on campus will continue to be scheduled on a staggered basis.
- ❖ Weather permitting, students may be allowed to eat lunch outdoors in designated areas.
- ❖ Students will maintain social distancing as much as possible during lunchtime.

Transportation

The Ripon Unified School District will continue regular transportation service with the following safety measures:

- ❖ Students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the bus.
- ❖ Students and adults shall wear a mask while on the bus, due to close proximity.
- ❖ Students will be requested to sit next to members of their household.
- ❖ Busses will be cleaned and sanitized after morning and afternoon runs.

- ❖ Open windows to allow for greater fresh air circulation.
- ❖ Maximize space between students and the driver on the school bus. where practicable.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to socially distance while on the bus as much as practicable.

Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

More information regarding extra- and co-curricular activities including sports will be forthcoming.

Staff Training

Staff will be trained utilizing virtual training through Keenan modules and meetings including health and safety actions such as:

- ❖ Enhanced sanitation practices
- ❖ Physical distancing and its importance
- ❖ Proper use of face coverings, removal and washing of cloth face coverings
- ❖ Screening practices
- ❖ COVID-19 specific symptom identification

If a Student or Staff Member Exhibits Symptoms

Written certification from a medical practitioner that the student or staff member is:

- ❖ Fever-free and has been completely symptom free (no coughs, chills, COVID-19 symptoms, and/or fever) for at least three (3) days, and/or;
- ❖ At least ten (10) days have passed since the onset of symptoms and/or;
- ❖ At least ten (10) days of isolation with 24 hours of no fever since positive COVID-19 test (9/17/20);
- ❖ Confirming that the student/staff member can return to school, that the student/staff had a negative test for COVID-19, and that any lingering symptoms, if applicable, are not the result of a contagious illness.

Communication

In order to best communicate with families and staff during these changing times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ripon Unified will continue to utilize multiple methods of communications. These include automated emails, phone calls, district website, resource documents, letters, social media, and personal outreach. These communications can provide families with the most up to date information about COVID-19.

If a staff member or student should become infected with COVID-19 district communication may vary depending on the specific circumstance of a case in the school community.

Documentation/Tracking incidents of possible exposure will be ongoing. Notification will be made to local health officials if affected staff, student, and/or immediate family members (or same household) of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state laws related to privacy of education and records.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts

The school district has designated our School Registered Nurse as our staff member who will keep in close contact with our San Joaquin County Office of Education Director of Comprehensive Health Services. The Registered Nurse will work with schools site LVNs and Health Assistants within the district to create and monitor confidential lists of exposed students and staff, and report, consult, or communicate with our local health department.

Partial or Total Campus Closure

Temporary closure of school facilities may occur upon County Public Health Department notification to the District. If this is warranted, parents will be contacted and a speedy transition to distance learning will occur for the students of the school(s) affected. An additional distance learning plan with student and staff expectations will be communicated to families.

****UPDATE - As of 7/15/20 and 7/17/20 -** Due to surge of COVID-19 and correspondence from San Joaquin Public Health and San Joaquin County Office of Education, on July 15, 2020 the Ripon USD Board of Trustees approved all Ripon USD students to begin school August 12, 2020 on distance learning. With anticipation of returning to classrooms on September 8, 2020. Governor Newsom in a press conference on Friday, July 17th mandated all schools/districts on the county watch list must begin school on distance learning. And, all adults and students 3rd grade and above (unless medical exemption) are required to wear a face mask.

If needed to transition students back to the classroom, a blended learning model was approved by the Ripon USD Board on July 15th. Our ultimate goal is to return to 5 days of school on our school campuses.

****UPDATE - As of 8/11/20 -** Health Protocols.

****UPDATE - As of 9/17/20 -** Health Protocols, Implementing Social Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom, and If a Student or Staff Member Exhibits Symptoms.