

RIVER ISLANDS ACADEMIES

Return to Campus Plan



River Islands Technology Academy

and

STEAM Academy

Updated July 20, 2021

**Guidelines are subject to change based on Public Health Orders.

**Guidelines are based on the California Department of Public Health, San Joaquin County Public Health, and San Joaquin Office of Education Guidelines.

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INTRODUCTION

As a response to direction from the San Joaquin County Office of Education and Public Health, River Islands Academies started the 2020-2021 school year with a Distance Learning Model. A Plan for Change Document was shared with families outlining the Distance Learning Model. A successful Distance Learning Program was in place from August 12, 2020 through June 2, 2021.

A Waiver from Public Health became available on August 28, 2020. Surveys from River Islands Academies provided input regarding interest to return to campus for families and preferred staff models.

On August 28, 2020, the River Islands Academies Board discussed the option to move forward with applying for the Waiver to Reopen Schools. River Islands Academies Governing Board decided to apply for the Waiver. The Waiver was submitted to San Joaquin County Public Health.

The RI Academies opened campuses for three weeks during trimester two as a result of San Joaquin County moving to the Red Tier. As cases increased and the CDPH issued a Stay Home Order on December 3, 2021, the Governing Board opted to temporarily pause the Return to Campus Plan.

On January 14, 2021, the California Department of Public Health provided a NEW COVID-19 Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework and Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools.

The RI Academies Return to Campus Plan was updated on January 21, 2021, to reflect the changes in the CDPH Guidelines and shared with staff and families.

On March 19, 2021, the CDC provided an update to the Essential Elements of Safe k-12 School Operations for In-Person Learning Guidance.

On March 20, 2021, the CDPH provided an update to the COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework and Public Health Guidance.

The RI Academies Return to Campus Plan was updated on March 25, 2021, to reflect the changes in the CDC and CDPH Guidelines and shared with staff and families.

Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, River Islands Academies are returning to full time, in-person instruction with modifications as specified below.

Additional conditions that must be in place will be monitored. State and local guidance documents are included in the Appendix.

PLAN TO ADDRESS COVID-19

The health and safety of our staff and students remain River Islands Academies' primary concern. This plan will guide us through the 2021-2022 school year. All plans are subject to change as we continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC, CDE, SJCOE, and Public Health.

The California Department of Public Health and the CDC have provided response scenario procedures on what measures should be taken when a student, teacher, or staff member has symptoms of illness, has had close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Visitors on Campus

RI Academies will not allow regular visitation to our campuses until further notice. Only staff will be allowed regularly and according to their established work schedule. We will limit nonessential visitors and volunteers as recommended by CDC and CDPH. Members of the public are required to wear face coverings and observe all social distancing guidelines upon entering RI Academies campuses.

Travel Restrictions

Per the current CDPH and CDC guidelines, there are no travel restrictions at this time.

Guidance for Known Exposure

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If someone has been in contact with someone who has been exposed to the virus, the first concern is for the health and safety of those around them. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning/Off-Campus Learning

There are no plans for full or partial moves to distance/off-campus learning. There may be individual students or staff that are required to quarantine but there will be no full school or classroom closures at this time.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Campuses were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before staff returning in July of 2021.

Employees are encouraged to clean their workspace throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers have been distributed throughout the workplace and in common areas. Cleaning sprays and/or wipes are also available to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as telephones and keyboards. The custodial staff will clean all workspaces at their designated cleaning time.

Sanitizing spray/wipes will be placed next to each copy machine.

Employees, in partnership with custodial, will maintain safety standards by cleaning at the end of each school day.

Per CDPH, frequent disinfection, which was thought at the beginning of the pandemic to be a key safety component, can pose a health risk to children and students due to the chemicals used and has proven to have limited to no impact on COVID-19 transmission.

Staff will ensure that only EPA “N” Label-Approved Sanitizing Products are used and exclude sodium hypochlorite (bleach) based products as they can be asthma inducing.

RI Academies will replace/monitor air filters to ensure optimal air quality. RI Academies have placed air purifiers in each classroom.

Following an identified case of COVID-19, the areas occupied by the individual will be disinfected if less than 24 hours has passed since occupancy. Otherwise, the areas will be disinfected at the end of the school day once students have left campus, per guidance

Physical Distancing and Campus Access

Classrooms will consider the following strategies as thoughtful safeguards when in shared spaces.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing will be encouraged whenever possible. Examples include:

- Moving activities outdoors to allow more more space, when possible
- Spreading students out during meal times and when masks are removed
- Reminding students to not congregate in restrooms and other small places.

Cohorts/Stable Groups

Stable groups or cohorts are no longer required and will not be implemented.

Students across grade levels will be able to intermingle during recess and lunch periods.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School

Students will enter through any open gates. Upon their arrival staff will check their temperature prior to entering campus. Any student with a fever will be sent to the office for further evaluation.

Hygiene and Health Practices

Each preventative measure taken helps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff

- Families are to self-screen students daily prior to sending their child to school each day. Families should keep students home if they are feeling ill or have a fever.
- Student temperature checks will be completed upon arrival.
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher must not go to a school site
- Students are not to be at school if they show any symptoms of illness
- Students who have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 are to stay home. Parents should contact the school office for further instructions. RiTechA: 209-229-4700; STEAM: 209-229-4736
- Daily symptom screening tools may be required to be completed following a COVID-19 exposure

- School Nurse will follow up with students with reported symptoms
- Health Protocols
 - If a student becomes ill at school,
 - They will report to the school office
 - Family will be contacted to pick up the child
 - The school nurse will be contacted and will refer to CDPH guidelines
 - The affected classrooms and areas will be cleaned at the end of the school day.
 - If an employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and/or may have had contact with a person with COVID-19:
 - Notify administration and the school nurse
 - CDPH guidelines will be followed to determine quarantine requirements
 - All quarantine requirements will be followed
- **US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**
 - If an employee becomes ill at work or if another person is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at work, they may be asked to leave work and go home or to the nearest health center.
 - Employees returning to work from an approved medical leave should contact Administration. They may be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note before returning to work.
 - If diagnosed with COVID-19, employee may return to work when all criteria are met: At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and have improved in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first occurred. Or, if asymptomatic, 10 days since the positive test result.
 - If symptoms that could be COVID-19 and do not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, it is assumed that they have COVID-19 and may not return to work until the above criteria listed above have been met.

Reported Case of COVID-19 within Schools/Offices

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 has been reported from an individual within a school, administration must be notified immediately. Administration and the School Nurse will work to identify any close contacts (any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) of the confirmed/likely case and assess the risk of exposure. A notice will be sent via email and/or phone informing close contacts of the known exposure. The notice will disclose as much

information as possible relating to the best indicated date and location of exposure. RI Academies will maintain confidentiality as required under HIPAA and FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.

Close contacts of the confirmed individual will be instructed to quarantine based on their individual situation per CDPH guidance. The guidance currently reads as follows:

- Close contact and has been vaccinated against COVID-19
 - May remain on campus as long as they remain asymptomatic
- Close contact, has not been vaccinated, and both parties were wearing a mask:
 - Modified 10-day Quarantine
 - May continue to come to work/school
 - Must remain asymptomatic
 - Must continue to wear a face covering
 - Must test twice **weekly** during the 10 days
 - Must quarantine from all extracurricular activities, including sports
- Close contact, has not been vaccinated, and one or neither party were wearing a face covering:
 - Quarantine for 10 days with no testing requirement; or
 - Quarantine for 7 days with a negative test taken after day 5; and
 - Must remain asymptomatic for the 14 days following last date of exposure

If someone has symptoms or a fever, they should contact their primary care physician and School Administration. If they are diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19 they must continue isolating at home. Once reported to the school, the school nurse will be notified and further instructions will be provided.

If there is an identified cluster, three or more individuals from different households, RI Academies will notify San Joaquin County Public Health Services as advised.

Updated public health directives issued January 14, 2021 require reporting details of any positive case of a person who has been on campus to San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPH).

Healthy Hygiene Practices

- Multiple hand-sanitizing stations and/or portable handwashing stations will be placed around campus
- Hand sanitizer or access to a sink with water and soap and sanitizing spray

will be provided to each teacher. Hand soap will be provided to classrooms that have sinks.

- Staff will continue to teach students appropriate hygiene, including coughing and sneezing inside the elbow or a tissue.
- Students and staff should wash their hands before sharing equipment and also after eating, coughing, sneezing, or using the restroom
- Drinking fountains will be closed or turned into water filling stations
- Signage will be displayed throughout campus that empowers students to be careful, cautious and respectful to one another.
- Signage will be posted to limit staff foot traffic in the office areas and to prevent congregating in shared staff areas
- Signs posted on door of workroom and staff lounge with reminders to social distance
- Students encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school
- Students are encouraged to keep their personal property to themselves, not to share personal items and to keep non-school related items at home

Face Coverings for Staff

- Staff required to wear face covering when:
 - Any time students are present, regardless of vaccination status
 - Interacting in-person with any member of the public
 - Working in a space visited by the public, regardless whether anyone from the public is present at the time
 - Working in a space where food is prepared or packaged to distribute to others
 - Working in or walking through common areas if unvaccinated
 - In a room or enclosed area where other people are present when unable to social distance and unvaccinated
- RI Academies will provide face masks as needed.
- Having certain medical conditions accompanied by a doctor's note and other circumstances may exempt individuals from wearing a face covering. Other mitigated measures may be necessary for employees unable to wear a mask.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those with loosely woven fabrics, and those that do not fit properly are not permitted

Face Coverings for Students

- All students are required to wear a face covering while indoors
- Face coverings are optional when outdoors
- RI Academies will provide face coverings as needed.
- Face coverings should be removed for eating and drinking

- In order to comply with Public Health Guidance, the school will exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering and refuse to wear one provided by the school.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those with loosely woven fabrics, and those that do not fit properly are not permitted

Gloves (allowed but not required or provided)

- Touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection
- Wearing gloves does not diminish the need to wash your hands
- The proper removal of gloves reduces the risk of being exposed to contamination

Communication

RI Academies will continuously communicate and encourage proper safety practices. Multiple methods of communication will be utilized including signage on campus, email, app notifications and website.

Automated phone calls will be used for urgent matters only.

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

Identification and Tracing of Contacts

Documentation/tracking incidents of possible exposure will be ongoing. Notification will be made to local health officials if affected staff, students, and/or immediate family members (or same household) of any positive case of COVID 19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA.

The School Nurse is designated to keep in close contact with the San Joaquin County Office of Education Director of Comprehensive Health Services. The School Nurse will create and monitor confidential lists of exposed students and staff.

Testing of Students and Staff

The availability and validity of rapidly testing asymptomatic individuals is in question by CDPH. San Joaquin County Public Health Services has committed to assisting schools in the event of an outbreak for a single school site. An outbreak is three or more positive cases from unique households.

Testing locations vary by city, however a current site available in Manteca is Modern Urgent Care for rapid testing. They are located at 1630 W Yosemite Avenue Suite 1, Manteca, CA 95337 and can be contacted at (209) 629-8771. Additionally, your health care provider may issue orders for antigen or PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing. An updated list of testing facilities can be found [here](#).

Staff Training and Family Education

Staff will be trained through meetings including health and safety actions such as:

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Proper use of face coverings, removal and washing of cloth face coverings •
Screening practices
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification

The School Nurse will provide training and education for staff during Professional Development, as needed.

Educational information will be provided to families from the School Nurse in the monthly newsletter, as appropriate.

Appendices

River Islands Academies Reopening Guidance and Resources

Updated Links:

[Cleaning and Disinfection your Facility- CDC](#)

[CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools in California](#)

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

Previous Links:

[COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework and Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California 2020-2021 School Year](#)

[California Department of Public Health Schools Guidance FAQs](#)

[Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools](#)

[COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year](#)

[COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School Based](#)

[San Joaquin County Public Health](#)

[San Joaquin County Office of Education - A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19](#)