

**River Oaks Academy
COVID and New Procedures
2020-2021 School Year**

In a concerted effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school building we will be following local, state and national guidelines and recommendations and adapting them to our specific situation. We will be discussing each student's situation in detail to help mitigate any difficulties they may face in implementing these guidelines and procedures. We will have ongoing discussions with all of our students and families as we move through the school year and face challenges that may come.

Prevention

1. **Masks.** Everyone must wear a mask. This alone removes a large percentage of the risk of spreading the virus. This is not easy and will take getting used to. We will have short "mask breaks" mid-morning, while eating, and mid-afternoon. We will work with individual issues on a case by case basis. K and KN95s are best (We have some if you need them), these can eliminate up to 95% of the spread!
2. **Distance.** Everyone must keep a safe distance from each other, at least 6 feet, we are aiming for 10 feet. This is the second most effective thing we can all do. The large classrooms will have no more than 4 students, the small classrooms will have no more than 2 students.
3. **Handwashing** will coincide with mask breaks throughout the day. Students will be trained and monitored for proper hand washing.
4. **Devices** and materials will remain as student specific as possible and cleaned before an item is shared.
5. **Desks** will be separated, teachers will have sneeze screens and there will be plastic curtain dividers in each classroom.
6. **Arrival** will require a temperature check. Anything 100 and above will not be admitted.
 - a. Hand Washing/Sanitizing will occur upon entering the building each morning.
 - b. Students will go straight to their classrooms from their car or bus.
 - c. Students cannot enter the building early and hangout.
 - d. Parents are required to pick up their student if any symptoms appear.
7. **Movement** in the building will be restricted. Students will not be allowed to interact with students from the otherside of the building. Students will stay in the same classroom, as much as possible.
8. **Bathrooms** will be used one at a time. Each user will be responsible for wiping what they used with a disinfectant wipe.
9. **Lunch** will not be in the cafeteria. Lunch will be in classrooms and social distanced at all times.
10. **Cleaning.** All classrooms and common areas will be cleaned at the end of each day.
11. **Departure** will be one at a time, maintaining safe distance.
12. **Symptom monitoring.** All students and staff will complete a COVID-19 Questionnaire prior to the beginning of school. A separate email will be sent with a link to this questionnaire. Students and staff must report any changes to their responses to the COVID Questionnaire immediately. These will be reviewed weekly.
13. **Training.** Students and teachers will engage in training on all COVID-19 procedures the first day of school and reminders thereafter.
14. **Signage** throughout the school will also serve as reminders and guidelines for prevention.
15. **Visitors** to the building will be restricted to the front office unless prior notice, arrangements, a compelling reason, and a clear COVID-19 Questionnaire, are in place.

Mitigation

1. **COVID Positive.** When someone (staff or student) has symptoms or tests positive:
 - a. All exposed members of that classroom will immediately quarantine at home and switch to distance learning for 14 days.

- b. Any others that have had close contact with an infected person will also be on 14 day quarantine. Close contact is defined as at least 15 minutes of exposure within 6 feet of the infected person; any more than 15 minutes and less than 6 feet, requires quarantine; any exposure less than 15 minutes and more than 6 feet does not require quarantine. Mask wearing does not change this requirement although it clearly helps prevent the spread.
 - c. After 14 days, everyone will be evaluated for their return to the school.
 - d. If someone in the front office is exposed, mitigation will be dependent on what their movement through the building may have been.
 - e. Any areas an infected person has been will be sanitized.
2. **Notification.** All students, staff and families will be notified of an exposure, even if it does not involve their child, so that families can make their own decision on whether or not to switch to distance learning. Only those who have had close contact exposure will be required to quarantine.
- a. It is recommended by CDC and TEA, and it makes sense that only those that are actually exposed carry any material risk. Parents will be informed of the level of exposure their child may have had. Fifteen minutes of exposure is considered the threshold for concern.
 - b. ROA is required to report any positive COVID cases to the local health authorities.

Guidance Documents

Texas Education Agency (TEA) [SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance](#)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [CDC Readiness and Planning Tool](#)

COVID Symptoms Checklist [CDC COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

In-Person | Distance | Hybrid Learning Models

- There are 3 learning models available: (1) In-person all day, (2) hybrid - in-person a portion of the day with distance learning for remainder, or (3) distance learning the entire day.
- Distance learning - synchronous (the preferred option), means that the student needs to be in attendance and interactive through their device while the class is taking place. This has the advantage of earning instructional credit during the class period.
- Distance learning - asynchronous, means the student is not present when the class is taking place but does the work for the class at other times during the day. This is not recommended and comes with additional work requirements to make up for missed instructional time and meet the TEA guidelines for earning class credit. The additional work requirements are specific to the class and will be provided by the teacher.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) may change their learning model preference at any time. To communicate a change in learning models, a parent/guardian may email roainfo@gmail.com with the request.
- If a parent has opted for distance learning and the student is in need of an electronic device, then a chromebook with charger will be provided. When the student is no longer learning through a distance model or has withdrawn/graduated from ROA, the chromebook and charger will need to be returned immediately. Failure to return these items will result in fee(s) of \$250.00 for the chromebook and \$50.00 for the charger.

Attendance, Grading and Testing

1. Overall, there is a strong emphasis to get students re-engaged and learning again at full potential. Everyone is feeling the loss of the last five months. All efforts to remove barriers and encourage students to re-focus will be made.

2. TEA has taken a hardline stance on attendance. In order to earn credit for each class, the student must attend 90% of the instructional time for that class. Time missed beyond that, must be made up, in addition to any missed assignments.
3. The grading system will be back to normal at the beginning of this school year.
4. Testing will resume this year as well. We will be evaluating students during the first week to identify their baseline and current standing in each class. If remediation is necessary, it will begin immediately.

COVID-19 Updates and Questions

- If you have questions or concerns you may email them to roainfo@gmail.com or call us 713-783-7200, or any of our cell phones listed on the Advisory document.
- If you have any suggestions for improving our safety, please let us know.