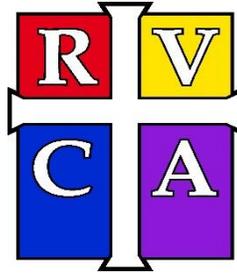


River Valley Christian Academy
351 Rte 105
Nackawic, NB E6G 1T9
Tel.: 506-575-1010
Fax.: 506-575-1040
Email: rvca@nb.aibn.com
www.rivervalleychristianacademy.com



*Where children are more
than students and learning
is more than books.*

River Valley Christian Academy

Return to School Plan

2020 – 2021

INTRODUCTION

The River Valley Christian Academy Return to School Plan follows the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s provincial expectations and standards for the safe operation of public schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the plan are to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 while also providing for a safe learning and working environment. Because RVCA student numbers are below 20, RVCA is considered a school bubble. RVCA “Return to School Plan” is a “living document” and is subject to change as provincial/public health directives change.

PLEASE NOTE: This Return to School Plan is a “Living” document and is subject to change upon recommendations of Public Health.

ATTENDANCE

- Kindergarten through Grade 8 students will begin school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and will continue attending school 5 days a week according to the school year calendar.
- Junior Kindergarten students will begin school on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, and will continue attending school 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, according to the school year calendar.
- All students must arrive to RVCA between 8:10 AM - 8:25 AM with classes beginning promptly at 8:30 AM. Full day students will be dismissed between 2:27 PM - 2:30 PM. Drivers are asked to arrive no later than 2:25 PM for dismissal.
- Parents are asked NOT to drop off their child prior to 8:10 AM without special permission from the administration as the school door must remain locked and staff will be in a staff meeting each morning.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Students and staff are encouraged to attempt to maintain physical distancing of 1 metre (3 feet) in all areas of the school; we understand that this will not always be possible in classrooms, and we are committed to regular sanitizing and disinfecting routines.

- Teachers will adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items.
- Congregating in all indoor common areas is discouraged. Stickers will be placed on hallway floors to identify safe areas at which to stand in order to promote physical distancing.
- In order to prevent congestion in the hallway, when students enter the school in the morning, they are expected to promptly unpack their bookbag and to go directly to any classroom. Water bottles must be brought cleaned and filled at home daily; staff will be responsible for filling water bottles periodically throughout the day and disinfecting the water dispenser after each use. Breakfast program volunteers will serve students within their classroom between 8:10 AM - 8:25 AM.
- At lunch, students will eat at their desk in classrooms.
- Our Hot Lunch volunteer(s), who are outside the RVCA school bubble, will deliver the purchased meal to the student at their desk. All meal prep volunteers must wear a mask and gloves during food prep and delivery to students.
- Our milk program will continue as usual and purchased milk will be delivered to students during lunch time.
- RVCA will NOT be offering canteen until further notice.
- Arrows will be placed in hallway to encourage all students to always keep to the right and in single file when traveling through the school.
- Every student will have 1-2 coat/bookbag hooks that will be spaced apart when possible.
- For this year, washrooms will have a maximum capacity of one student (unless there is an emergency).
- Morning and noon recesses will continue at regular times and outdoor play is encouraged. Students will have limited access to playground toys (from the school shed) to make regular disinfecting easier. Students are encouraged to play together, keeping their own personal space; physical contact is not permitted.

MASKS

- Two community masks are required to be brought to school in September by all students and staff; one mask must be placed in a Ziploc bag and one mask must be placed in a personal pencil case. All masks and the pencil case must be labelled with the student's name. Students and staff will only be required to wear a mask if they present COVID-19 symptoms or in an unplanned emergency where the school body must evacuate the building. Teachers will keep one student mask in their possession for quick access during fire drills or unplanned evacuations; one student mask will be kept in the student's personal "extra supplies bin/area". Staff has the option to wear a mask and/or shield at any time throughout the school day.
- Parents/guardians will be notified if their child's mask needed to be used and it must be returned washed the following day.
- Teachers are encouraged to wear a mask/shield when working closely with a student.

TRANSPORTATION/ ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

- Parents/guardians are required to transport their own children to and from school. Parents must back into a parking spot along the outside of the parking lot so they can safely see incoming/departing vehicles and walking students. All caution must be used

during arrival and dismissal times to keep our students safe. At dismissal, parents are not permitted to leave the parking lot until the staff member at the door waves to parent vehicles and closes the door; this action indicates that all students are safely in their vehicles.

- A staff member will be at the door to monitor entry to the school. Only students are permitted to enter the school in the morning; parents are asked to prearrange a school visit by contacting the office 575-1010. According to provincial directives, parents are not permitted to enter the building without an appointment.
- A staff member will be at the door to ensure students enter when there is sufficient space in the entryway. Students are not permitted to congregate in the entryway. They are to proceed to remove their footwear, go to their personal hooks, empty their bookbags and go to their homeroom classroom. They are to stay at their desk once in the classroom; students can “visit” others in their own class but may not enter other classrooms.
- At this time, we will not be arranging any school field trips; this includes a fall field trip and winter physical education activities (ie: skating, bowling, etc.). We will continue to reevaluate the possibility of school field trips for May/June, but do not anticipate this field trip to be possible.

HAND SANITIZING AND DISENFECTING

- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in each classroom and in the entryway.
- Students/staff are expected to sanitize their hands upon entry/exit to/from the classroom and wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing posters will be posted at appropriate locations throughout the school.
- Students are asked to bring two individual-sized hand sanitizers with their school supplies. The hand sanitizer should not be scented (ie: Bath & Body Works scents are not permitted). If the student finds a smaller size, “squeezable” hand sanitizer easier to use, they must bring additional containers to potentially last the year. The purpose of each student having their own personal hand sanitizer is to keep common areas in the classroom clear.
- Gr. 1-8 students are asked to bring a minimum of two personal pencil sharpeners to use. Classroom pencil sharpeners will not be made available. The Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten teacher will sharpen JK/K student pencils before class each day.
- If a student wants extra school supplies, such as markers, they are required to bring their own (Markers are NOT permitted for JK/K students). Class sets will not be made available as they have been in the past. Each student will use their own supplies and will not be permitted to share supplies with other students.
- At the end of day, staff (of Jk-Gr. 5)/ students (Gr. 6-8) will be required to disinfect their workstation (desks and chairs). Disinfectant and paper towels will be available in each classroom. Older students will be instructed on the proper procedure for disinfecting.
- Any shared materials in a classroom such as toys (primary grades), art supplies, musical instruments, school computers must also be sanitized by staff/students after each use. Items that can not be easily sanitized, will not be made available or each student will have their own personal supply (ie: lego, playdough).

- The water dispenser will not be available for student use at this time. A staff member will be responsible for filling student water bottles and disinfecting the dispenser after each use. All students are expected to bring their own refillable water bottles. Water bottles should be brought to school clean and filled each day.
- Students will be trained in proper hygiene etiquette (ie: coughing/ sneezing into elbow, immediately disposing of used tissue, hand sanitizing, etc.).

SYMPTOM MONITORING

- Parents are responsible for reviewing the screening questions at the end of this document with their children prior to leaving for school and only sending their child to school when they are well and have met the criteria outlined in the survey.
- If a student has two or more symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay home and parents must contact 811 to determine whether COVID-19 testing is required.
- If COVID-19 testing is required, individuals must follow Public Health advice for returning to school. If testing is not required, they can return once fever (with no medications) and other symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours or if they have been directed to do so by a health care professional.
- If tested, Public Health will inform the individual or parent (when a student is involved) when isolation may be lifted.
- If a student becomes symptomatic at school, they will be taken to the sick room (Resource Room beside the office). Parents will be contacted and must come to the school as soon as possible to pick up their child.
- Parents should have an alternative plan for pick up should their schedule not permit prompt pick up.

ACCESS TO THE BUILDING

- To help with contact tracing, access to schools will be limited to control the flow of people.
- Additional health and safety protocols, such as temperature checks, will be in place for anyone who is not a student or member of school personnel entering the school building.
- Parents will be only able to enter the school if they have an appointment or are picking up a sick child. Please note requirements below when entering the building.
- Parents picking up children during instructional hours are asked to call the office of the school to notify administration of their arrival. The student will then prepare to leave, wait by the office, and exit the building to the vehicle with permission from staff.
- Parents must sign the visitor log if they enter the school to assist with contact tracing.
- Parents will need to wear a mask, maintain physical distancing and follow any other health, and safety protocols while in the school.
- All guests may be required to have their temperature taken via touchless thermometer.
- The parent-teacher interviews will be conducted virtually (FaceTime/Zoom) or by telephone.
- RVCA will not be hosting any fundraisers or concerts in 2020-2021 school year that would normally host a large crowd (including Christmas concert). We will review

provincial regulations and directives in May regarding our year end closing in June but do not anticipate this to be permissible to take place in person.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

1. The Regional Medical Office of Health will contact the school if a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed. The school principal must follow the orders of the Regional Public Health Office.
2. The school will communicate to the school population of a positive case of COVID-19 in the school and inform the school population that more information will be coming from the Regional Public Health Office.
3. Regional Public Health will be involved to manage the outbreak, ensure contacts are identified, ensure public health measures are in place, and lead any communication that is required.
4. Communication to the school community will be guided by the Regional Medical Officer of Health, in collaboration with the school principal.
5. Confidentiality of a suspect or confirmed case is paramount. It is important that all personal health information remain confidential unless Public Health requires the information for contact tracing.
6. Public Health Officers will contact those individuals who must self-monitor or self-isolate. Public Health Officers will decide if a class, classes or the entire school population needs to be sent home to self-monitor or self-isolate. They will inform the school principal of the actions needed.
7. If exclusion/isolation is required, principals must ensure that measures are in place to inform parents and school personnel of the situation and of how important this control measure is with resources from Regional Public Health. Proper exclusion/isolation is one of the most important and effective measures in controlling the spread of disease to others. Parental and school personnel cooperation is critical.
8. Public Health Officers or Public Safety Officers will monitor anybody who has been ordered to self-isolate.
9. In the event the school is required to close due to an outbreak, the Regional Medical Officer of Health will give the directives in collaboration with the principal. The Regional Medical Officer of Health will notify the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

10. In the event a school, region or the province is in the red phase, students will not be permitted inside the school building. School personnel will continue to work in the school building unless the school has been closed to school personnel by Public Health. This means that school personnel are expected to report to school and continue offering education to students at a distance.
11. Teaching and learning must not stop if students are sent home because of an outbreak. As part of their preparations for the upcoming school year, school personnel must develop contingency plans for continued learning when students are not physically able to be in school. For example, teachers may have kits that they can send home with younger students, they may be ready to teach on-line, etc.
12. Public Health Officers will inform those individuals who have been ordered to self-isolate of when the order ends. Public Health Officers will inform the principal when a class or a school (students and/or school personnel) can physically return to the school building. Because RVCA is a school bubble, it is anticipated that it will be necessary for the entire school to close should there be a confirmed case.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, allergies or other respiratory issues, please return the detailed form sent home the first day of school. Please note: Students or school personnel who have been identified by their primary care provider as having asthma, seasonal allergies or who suffer from chronic runny nose/nasal congestion are not required to be excluded based on these symptoms.
- Because parents are not permitted into the school building on a daily basis (and without a prearranged appointment), we ask parents to get into the habit of sending money (hot lunch, hotdog, milk), forms and other items for the office/teacher with your child AND to also write a note in their homework book to notify the teacher.
- When students arrive, they may be asked to wait at the door until there is enough room in the entry for them to enter. A staff member will be at the door and will give direction. At dismissal, parents will stay in their vehicles and your child will be dismissed to your vehicle.
- In most cases, school fundraising will be adapted for 2020-2021. The annual fundraising deposit cheque is NOT required for this school year. More information to follow at the end of September or first of October.
- Refundable drink containers, such as juice boxes, will NOT be collected at RVCA until further notice. Therefore, we ask that parents send a Ziploc bag in their child's lunch box each day so the empty juice box can be placed inside the bag and returned home.

APPENDIX A

SELF – MONITORING CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Prior to leaving for school/work each day, please verify that you do not have two or more symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild.

Do you have any of following symptoms:

- A fever of above 38°C
- A new cough or a worsening chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- A new onset of fatigue
- A new onset of muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste or sense of smell
- In children, purple markings on fingers or toes

If you answered YES, and have ONLY ONE symptom, you may phone 811 to discuss COVID-19 testing. As a precaution, please self-monitor for onset of additional symptoms that may develop.

If you answered YES, and have 2 OR MORE of the symptoms, then self-isolate at home, and call 811.

If you answer YES to ANY of the following below, then you must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days:

- Have you had close contact within the last 14 days with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are waiting to hear the results of a lab test for COVID-19.
- Have you returned from travel outside of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia within the last 14 days (IF for work purposes, you are not required to self-isolate upon return, but should self-monitor for symptoms)?
- You have been told by public health that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms, please refer to the self- assessment link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage.

Follow Public Health advice if you are waiting for testing results for COVID-19 or have been told to self-isolate.

If you develop symptoms, please refer to the self-assessment link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage.

Please note: If your child has been in contact with someone who is awaiting COVID-19 test results (and they do not have two or more symptoms), they are not required to self-isolate.

For the latest information visit: **www.gnb.ca/coronavirus**