Please find below our COVID-19 protocols for 2021-22. These will be updated as circumstances warrant. At Ransom Everglades, we believe keeping our community safe requires the commitment of all members of our community.

**Masks**
All students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus, vaccinated or unvaccinated, must wear face masks indoors and on buses or any school transportation. All members of the sixth grade must wear masks at all times on campus, except when eating, drinking or participating in certain supervised outdoor activities such as physical education.

Face masks must fit properly and cover the nose and mouth. Gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable face coverings.

**Vaccinations for COVID-19**
Ransom Everglades strongly recommends the COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible students. (Vaccination is required for all faculty, staff and administration, except for those with exemptions.) Please keep Ransom Everglades apprised of updates to your child's vaccination status. “Fully vaccinated” means two weeks after the second or final COVID-19 vaccination shot. Email the appropriate campus nurse at the middle school or upper school and you will be given guidance on how to submit your child’s vaccination information if you have not already done so.

**Illness**
If your child shows symptoms of illness – such as fever, cough or runny nose – keep your child home from school and report the absence via SchoolPass. A school nurse may contact you.

Children who show any symptoms of illness on campus will be sent home.

If your child’s symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 or your symptomatic child had exposure to a COVID-19 individual, contact your primary care physician and have your child tested for COVID-19. Students who test negative for COVID-19 may return to campus when they are symptom/fever free for 24 hours.

Ransom Everglades will not be offering a remote school option this year. For more information on student absences, please see the Student Handbook.
POSITIVE TEST FOR COVID-19

Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must report the result to the appropriate campus via email.

Middle School
Upper School

The individual also must isolate (stay home from school and isolate from other people) for 10 days. (The 10-day period commences on the first day the individual shows symptoms or on the date of testing if asymptomatic.) Students who test positive must have a doctor’s note that clears them to return to school and resume participation in co-curricular activities, including PE and sports.

Ransom Everglades will notify the Florida Department of Health if any student, faculty or staff member who has been on campus tests positive for COVID-19. The school will also follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to determine close contacts*.

CLOSE CONTACTS AND QUARANTINES

A student, teacher or staff member identified as a close contact* of a COVID-19 individual by Ransom Everglades will be notified by the school.

Close contacts are subject to the following guidelines:

If vaccinated, the close contact
- does not have to quarantine (i.e. stay home from school) unless the close contact is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- should be tested for COVID-19 three to five days after exposure to the positive individual. (A COVID-19 test is required three to five days after exposure if the positive individual resides in the same household.)
- should wear a mask outdoors for 14 days after the close contact when social distancing cannot be maintained

If not fully vaccinated, the close contact
- must quarantine (stay home from school) for seven days
- must be tested for COVID-19 no earlier than day five after the close contact
- may return to campus after seven days if the COVID-19 test is negative, and the individual is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- must wear a mask indoors and outdoors on campus until 14 days after exposure
VISITORS
We are continuing to restrict visitors to campus, though we are allowing visitors for special events, sporting events and by invitation. All visitors will be required to comply with all COVID-19 protocols in place for those events. Appointments with teachers, advisors and administrators should be conducted virtually.

SPORTS PRACTICES AND GAMES
As our fall sports teams begin their competitive seasons, we are operating under protocols that are evaluated on a day-by-day basis. If you are the parent of a student with upcoming competitions, you will receive information with protocol updates and other game-specific details as the season progresses.

Current Protocols

- Parents of RE student-athletes are welcome to attend competitions in which their child’s team is participating.
- RE students are welcome to attend any sports competitions on their campus.
- Spectators must wear masks at indoor events and are encouraged to wear masks in crowded spaces outdoors.
- Unvaccinated visitors to campus are required to wear masks at all times.
- Parents of RE student-athletes may not attend practices or walk through campus to pick their children up from practices. They must wait in their cars.
- We will provide livestream access to games when possible to allow other members of our school community to watch competitions. When available, the game link will be posted on the team's myCOMPASS page.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS
To attend school-sponsored overnight trips, all students must follow the mask requirements for the trip, and students who are not fully vaccinated must submit a negative COVID-19 PCR test administered within 72 hours of departure to the designated school official.

RETURNING TO CAMPUS AFTER HOLIDAY BREAKS
Ransom Everglades will inform families of any return-to-campus protocols after holiday breaks closer to those breaks.

*Please find the CDC guidance on close contacts here. Please find the CDC guidance for schools here.