



February 11, 2022

Good afternoon Rowanty Family,

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Rowanty Technical Center has been committed to establishing policies and procedures that support the health of our community, complying with all applicable laws and regulations, and providing choices to our families when possible.

As new guidance continues to be made available to Virginia schools, we continue to modify our COVID-19 mitigation practices. The recently released *Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Virginia PreK-12 Schools* from the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Education, seeks to balance the goals of disease prevention and the importance of in-person instruction.

In this most recent guidance, schools have been given the authority to make decisions regarding when to have children stay home from school due to COVID-19, as they do for many other illnesses.

On February 3, 2022, the Rowanty Board of Control took action to honor all applicable laws and regulations including Executive Order 2.

The action including the following requirements:

- Honor Executive Order 2 which allows parents to opt-out of whether their child wears a face covering at Rowanty Technical Center beginning Monday, February 14, 2022.
- All students who use school transportation will continue to be required to wear a face covering while being transported due to the face covering order from the federal Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This applies to passengers and drivers on school buses.
- Rowanty will continue to do temperature/health checks as students enter the building.
- Rowanty will continue all other mitigation procedures (e.g., desk shields, cleaning) to help maintain a safe and healthy instructional environment.
- All Nurse Aide students will still be required to wear masks when they are being instructed and are practicing all clinical skills within the school.
- All Nurse Aide students will continue to be required to follow all guidelines from the clinical site regarding mitigation procedures.
- Rowanty continues to request that students with any symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, flu, colds, or other illnesses please stay home until they are either symptom free or have been directed for isolation or quarantine.
- Rowanty asks that all families contact Rowanty at 434-246-5741 to notify the main office of any absence related to illness.
- The home high schools will continue to govern the length of isolation or quarantine time that may be needed for any student.



While Executive Order 2 does provide parents with the opportunity to opt-out of having children wear masks at school, we ask that all members of our school community to be respectful of the choices of others. We ask that those who choose not to wear a mask be courteous and kind to others and consider wearing a mask when approaching a person who chooses to wear one. Rowanty will also provide a mask to students that request them, if they choose to wear one and do not have one.

Faculty, staff, and visitors remain required to wear face coverings when visiting our school campuses. Our school continues to await further guidance as it relates to state and federal guidelines on face coverings for these individuals on school campuses, including Senate Bill 1303, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH), and any federal public health order as these still require individuals to wear a mask with limited exceptions. As further guidance is received, this will be revisited.

We want our school community to remain safe when attending class or participating in activities while also respecting the choices each of our families has made. Our school remains committed to honoring all applicable regulations and respecting the wishes of each of our families without impacting others, all while working to maintain safe learning environments for our students and staff.

Thank you,  
*Cheryl L. Simmers*  
Principal