



Colorado Rocky Mountain School

Overview of CRMS COVID-19 Operating Plan

Philosophy and General Approach We believe in the power of in-person instruction, community, and the CRMS experience. We want every student to have a transformative CRMS year full of challenge, friendship, and fun. We feel fortunate to be a small school on a large and beautiful campus, as many of the recommendations about space, activities, and minimizing the number of people with whom you interact, all play to our strengths. We want you to be with us and have worked with health officials, medical professionals, lawyers, and the CRMS administration to understand the recommendations and craft a plan that helps mitigate risk specific to the program and activities of CRMS.

We carefully analyzed the various components of life at CRMS and created practices and policies for the aspects of CRMS life at a variety of COVID-19 response levels based on what is happening in our school, community, and the country. We anticipate that the situation will continue to evolve, and the response level will change with the situation.

Again, our ability to respond and adapt plays to our strengths. We are a small, nimble organization that is well-versed in the concept of risk management. We are prepared to pivot quickly as new information is presented. We have already added additional facilities improvements, restructured cleaning and disinfection processes to be more thorough and frequent, and added staffing resources to facilitate the changes. Simultaneously, as we look at the changes, we are confident that the power of programming that we have provided over the years remains as vibrant as ever.

Academics This plan is designed to facilitate in-person classes and instruction in most circumstances. Academic classes will begin September 7th. We will host classes outside as well as inside - all with appropriate social distancing measures. Some classes may be moved to unconventional areas of the school, such as the barn, fitness room, or our newly purchased tents to provide adequate ventilation and space. These spaces will be set up to be comfortable, effective learning spaces. The daily schedule has been adjusted, passing periods extended, and hallway traffic patterns are adjusted to provide for safe transitions. Anytime students and faculty are in buildings, masks and hand sanitization are required. Classrooms will be sanitized at the end of each class block.

We may need to utilize distance learning or a hybrid model (in-person and distance learning) should the pandemic circumstances in the Roaring Fork Valley shift, requiring greater restrictions and vigilance. In the hybrid scenario, each student will have in-person classes for each of their classes one period per week and engage in distance learning during other class days. The hybrid plan allows for the separation of boarding and day populations. The CRMS plan for distance learning is focused on synchronous learning. Both hybrid and distance learning models focus on maintaining relationships between students, teachers, and peers.

Community Life The boarding experience for students remains strong. Beds are spread out to ensure 6' of separation between students' heads. Cleaning and disinfection protocols are in place and will be carried out by the dorm residents as well as the frequency of high-touch surfaces by Housekeeping. We have four different isolation spaces with the capacity

to isolate approximately 16 students at a time (or roughly 20% of the total boarding student population).

For the first fourteen days, boarding students will pick up meals from our newly renovated dining facility and enjoy their meal at the outdoor Bar Fork picnic tables, with 6' spacing, or any number of our grassy outdoor locations. In the case of inclement weather, indoor dining spaces will be available in the Bar Fork, with 6' spacing, and the daily schedule has been adjusted to allow for 90 minutes of staggered meal times. After the fourteen days, and assuming community health, the dining hall will generally be utilized with continued 6' spacing. Students can anticipate having food plated for them. The self serve areas will be closed, but there will be ways to customize meals to taste with alternative options and single-serve packaging available. The dining room will be closed and cleaned in between meal times. In order to continue our Formal Dinner tradition and honor spacing requirements, Formal Dinners will be small grade level-specific gatherings.

Student Health CRMS is enhancing our focus on student health and the staffing support in place to care for students. We have deepened our relationship with state and local health officials, our community medical clinic, and CRMS' physician at Roaring Fork Family Physicians.

Testing recommendations are changing rapidly at this time. We are staying abreast of the latest guidance and will provide more details about this as the summer progresses. Testing may be required throughout the school year; we will determine those testing intervals based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local and state health departments, best practices for residential schools and colleges, and the needs of our school.

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks in indoor public spaces, outdoors when unable to social distance, and wear masks off-campus when in public spaces. One exception will be for boarding students when within their dorm.

A health screening will occur when you first arrive on campus. In all likelihood this will include temperature checks and other screening procedures. Per the chart below, these health screenings will occur daily. The school will be providing a saliva test for every student during the quarantine period and prior to Fall Trip. Should anyone experience any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or test positive, they should not come on campus or should stay in their dormitory if they are a boarding student. Medical clearance is necessary prior to return to school programming.

Students who experience symptoms in line with COVID-19 will be isolated on campus (or at home if you are a day student or local boarder) until appropriate testing and medical consultation indicates they can return to the community. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has been in recent contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 may not attend classes or other school activities. During those periods of isolation on campus, CRMS staff will provide regular checks and care for isolated students. Parents of any sick student would receive regular communication about the student's health. Generally, sick boarding students would be able to recover on campus, and parents would only be asked to come to Colorado to help with care for their student if the student required multiple days of hospitalization.

Active, Outdoor Program and Interim We are excited to take advantage of the beautiful place in which we live. We look forward to welcoming students back and engaging with sports, service, and adventure to kick off the year! The Active Program has a robust set of COVID-19 practices, including social distancing, limited group sizes, hand washing, mask-wearing as appropriate such as when traveling on buses. We will provide students with individual gear that minimizes sharing between students. Some activities will be modified, but we are fortunate in that many of CRMS' core sports lend themselves to social distancing. To date, the Colorado High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) has not yet determined the guidelines for competitive sports for the fall. Regardless of CHSAA's ruling about competitions, CRMS is confident we can design appropriate internal challenges to engage, develop, and maintain competitive student-athletes.

When on trips, tarp accommodations will be more spacious, limiting two-three students per tarp, allowing for 6' of separation between heads to maximize ventilation. All students will be trained in meticulous hand washing and hygiene practices as part of excellent expedition behavior. Additionally, cook groups will be smaller in size and have increased instructor supervision. If a student becomes ill on a trip, plans are in place to isolate and evacuate the student for further care.

Interim programming for 2021 is still in flux; however, we have determined that we will not be offering any Interims that include air travel. We will share more information about Interim offerings in the fall.

In preparation for the start of the year Getting all students to our campus from communities all over the world is a hurdle that we want to approach with diligence, and we need you to be an active partner. Our plan involves heightened (but reasonable) precautions leading up to the start of the year and for the first fourteen days when all students will either quarantine in the dorms or self-isolate at home.

Getting the student community here as healthy as possible is key to beginning the year with in-person learning. We are asking all staff starting August 1st to remain local so that we minimize the risk of being a vector to the students. We ask that you, parents, join us in taking all possible precautions by adhering to the self-isolation period to avoid exposure leading up to the start of the school year. All students (and applicable families) will be asked to self-monitor/regulate for the following criteria:

- Avoid non-essential travel and limit exposure to large groups.
- Monitor for the presence of symptoms consistent with COVID-19, which currently include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, nausea, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, vomiting.¹
- Monitor if students/families have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with, tested for, or been quarantined with COVID-19.

If a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms before arriving on campus, you will be asked to remain home until cleared by a medical professional.

There are a few extra items, not traditionally on our packing list, that we will ask you to bring:

- 1 personal bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 personal thermometer
- 1 neck buff and a minimum of 2 cloth face masks

Opening Day/Drop-Off We are excited to welcome everyone - new and returning families - to campus! We know that many of you are planning to drive to campus, and we encourage you to do so. We are also sensitive to the inherent risk of the initial gathering of students and families from across the world. We respectfully request that you maintain six feet of separation from community members and wear a mask. Family members will not be allowed into buildings or residences. For those flying, we ask that you fly with a mask, hand sanitizer, refrain from touching your face, and, most importantly, practice excellent hand hygiene. Upon arriving on campus, you will participate in a quick medical screening. We will also require a saliva test for all students after they arrive on campus and prior to departure Fall Trip. Students with positive tests would be isolated on campus until reintegration is deemed appropriate (to include being symptom-free and returning

¹ This list of symptoms should be drawn from the [CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019: Symptoms](#) page.

negative COVID-19 test results). Any time there is reasonable concern about a student being infected with COVID-19, CRMS may elect to have students undergo a COVID-19 rapid reaction test, to minimize the risk of transmission within the community.

In the event of exposure within our community If a student is suspected of having contracted COVID-19 or tests positive for it, the COVID-19 Treatment and Quarantine Protocols will be followed. This essential document describes care students and parents can expect in this situation.

Possibility of Suspension of In-Person Programming The purpose of our COVID-19 operating plan is to position CRMS to offer in-person programming, understanding that the risk of COVID-19 will continue to exist during the 2020-21 school year. Like the outdoor activities that help us shape our students' leadership skills, there are risks with in-person programming that we must weigh against the benefits. By utilizing the practices in this plan, we believe it is our best chance to continue with in-person programming during the year. In the event that we must suspend in-person programming, we have the ability to deliver strong, quality, remote, or hybrid instruction. While day students will distance learn from home, boarding students will not have to return home but rather will participate in distance learning from dormitories.

Factors that would indicate CRMS should move to suspend in-person programming include a direct order from government officials to suspend in-person schools, widespread infection in the CRMS community, or a surge in Roaring Fork Valley cases that results in local and regional medical facilities becoming overwhelmed. We have conferred closely with local and state officials, including Governor Polis' education policy advisor and COVID-19 response team leader. The result of those discussions was the submission and subsequent approval of a reopening plan that CRMS drafted for all the boarding schools in Colorado.

CRMS Covid-19 Response Levels The following chart depicts the five response levels for CRMS. Moving from one level to the next will depend on what is happening in our school, local community, state and country.

RESPONSE LEVELS	
Initial Window: First 14 days	<p>These practices will be in place immediately before the start of the semester and for the first fourteen days, providing the community the opportunity to arrive and mitigate the risk of exposure from students coming from around the world and from their travels through airports to get to campus. The Initial Window level will also include all practices from Level 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out- of-state new and returning boarding students quarantine together for the first fourteen days participating in new student orientation or returning student residential opening programs • Day and local boarding students self-isolate at home and come to campus for Fall Trip prep at the end of the 14 days • Active practice of social distancing and diligence in hygiene • Daily health screening for students and staff • Students and staff wear masks when social distancing is not possible
Level 1 Response: Baseline Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All community members wear a clean face mask daily in indoor public spaces or when unable to socially distance outdoors and wear masks off-campus when in public spaces. • All members of the community stay at home when feeling ill. • At-higher- risk individuals² will be expected to wear an n95 level mask when working

² At risk individuals as defined by [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019: People Who Need To Take Extra Precautions](#) page.

	<p>with students or employees who have come from outside the campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 symptoms posted in entrances to public buildings and residence halls • Based on accuracy and availability: testing of all students and faculty • Daily health screening for students and staff • Hand Washing reminders sent via campus alert • Social distancing rules in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ students seated at appropriate distance/configuration ◦ tables and chairs disinfected after every class and meal seating • No self serve meals likely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ This may mean day students limited to only lunch service • No weekend sign-outs for the first three weekends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ no “reverse weekends” for the first three weekends ◦ day students welcome to participate in weekend activities • Only dorm residents and faculty allowed in dormitories (no guests or family members) • All school meetings held outside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ suspension of noncritical gatherings/events until deemed safe • Daily schedule minimizes the number of student interactions throughout the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contact tracing for any students or faculty who feel ill • Use of a “parent/family alert” system to communicate school-wide updates, reminders, or if a move to next level is required
Level 2: heightened awareness = new pandemic “wave” (minimal local community spread)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bullets from level 1 • Boarding students restricted from all unsupervised off-campus travel • No weekend sign-outs for all boarding students (including local) • Coordinate with local health officials any additional guidelines/restrictions: implementation of additional social distancing strategies for gatherings, classrooms, and movement through buildings • Coordinate with governing athletic associations for guidance regarding competitive sports and sanctioned activities
Level 3: evidence of a resurgence in Colorado: (moderate/increasing local community spread)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bullets in level 1 and 2 • Restrictions placed on day-student access to campus: only allowed in predetermined academic spaces. Restricted from the dining hall. Meals served in pre-packaged form • Restrictions on off-campus faculty and staff: (same as day students above) • “Shelter-in-place” based on age and health of the individual as defined by the CDC as higher-risk individuals (students and employees)
Level 4: substantial local community spread (with no cases in student population of school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bullets in level 1, 2 and 3 • Day students restricted from interacting with boarding students • Possible hybrid in-person/distance learning instruction • Boarding students eat meals in dormitories • Consider additional ways to accommodate needs of students, families, and employees at-higher-risk. • Only authorized use of school vehicles
Level 5: evidence of student population infection and/or in-person learning is suspended by State of Colorado and/or County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance learning for boarding and day students • Boarders remain on campus and continue instruction in dormitories • Consider additional ways to support the mental health of the students