



**Accomack County Public Schools  
Return to Learn/Health Mitigation Plan  
2021-2022  
Updated: May 17, 2022 (DRAFT)**

Accomack County Public Schools remain committed to providing ALL students with the Best education possible in a safe and healthy environment. The ACPS 2021-2022 Return to Learn/Health Mitigation Plan addresses the delivery of in-person instruction five (5) days per week to each student. Our updated 2022-2023 plan will be a Return to Normal/Health Mitigation Plan. This plan will assist ACPS as we return to a Pre-COVID operational status. A virtual option for qualifying students will continue to be provided by Virtual Virginia. Mitigation strategies for the 2021-2022 school year are consistent with those implemented during the 2020-2021 school year. Mitigation strategies for the 2022-2023 school year will be flexible. The level of impact in the community and schools will determine how flexible we will be with our “Return to Normal” plan.

Accomack County Public Schools referenced *Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Virginia PreK-12 Schools* from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The February 11, 2022 edition of this document was used to update the plan.

Success in preventing COVID-19 transmission in school settings begins with and is connected to preventing transmission, as long as, impact to schools remains favorable. All schools must make in-person instruction available to all students pursuant to Senate Bill 1303 passed during Virginia’s 2021 legislative session. Under this new law, schools are permitted to switch from in-person to partial or fully virtual instruction temporarily if COVID-19 transmission levels within the school are deemed to be at a high level in collaboration with the local health department.

According to the Executive Summary (February 11, 2022), there is no greater priority than the health and welfare of Virginia’s children, and parents have the fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care of their children. These three core principles found in Executive Order 2 reaffirm: parents are in charge of their children’s health, wellbeing and education; schools must be open five days a week for in-person learning and; the Commonwealth and school divisions must provide a safe and healthy school environment. With freedom comes responsibility. This guidance clarifies the roles of parents, educators and the schools. The Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education will continue to provide quality, actionable and up-to-date information on the pandemic so that parents can continue to make educated health decisions that are best for their child(ren) and family. The virus

that causes COVID-19 continues to evolve and the tools to fight the virus have expanded. As new variants emerge, the epidemiology may change; therefore, prevention strategies may need to be adjusted. This public health guidance has been updated to align with the current risk. A key lesson learned from early in the pandemic is that many students and families suffer when schools are not open to in-person learning. Keeping students in school, while also providing a safe environment to students, teachers and staff in K-12 schools, is the goal. Mitigation strategies that reduce COVID-19 transmission can be reduced now that effective vaccines are available, and the current predominant variant (Omicron) is causing less severe disease. Foundational prevention strategies in schools, such as testing and improving ventilation, combined with common-sense actions of personal responsibility, such as staying home when sick, getting vaccinated, and hand-washing, can help reduce transmission in schools. Following public health recommendations to isolate at home after testing positive is also an important layer of safety for our school communities. For those who have tested positive or have been recommended to quarantine, wearing masks for the recommended time period and testing at appropriate intervals can help keep kids in school and keep everyone safe.

### **2021-2022 Return to Learn/Health Mitigation Task Force**

- Chris Holland, Superintendent
- Dr. Rhonda Hall, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
- Dr. Ronnie Holden, School Board Member
- Karen Taylor, Director of Secondary Schools
- Bobby Bennett, Director Operations and Management
- Tonya Martin, School Health Coordinator
- Paul Brabazon, Transportation Supervisor
- Paul Bloxom, Facilities Management Supervisor
- Brandyn Burkholder, Food Service Supervisor
- Keith Godwin, Custodial Supervisor
- Ruth Tankard, Elementary Principal
- Katie Farrell, Secondary Assistant Principal
- David Sabatino, Teacher
- Miranda Dunston, Parent
- Dr. Gabriella Richardson, Pediatrician, ESRH
- JJ Justis, Local Health Emergency Coordinator, Eastern Shore Health District

2022-2023 recommendations by: Chris Holland, Dr. Rhonda A. Hall, Tonya Martin, Belinda Rippon, Karen Taylor, Paul Brabazon.

## Opportunity for Public Comment

- Accomack County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account in developing the ARP ESSER Plan.
- Return to Learn/Health Mitigation Task Force was organized which comprised of stakeholders from all areas of the Division.
- The report was presented to the School Board for review on August 3, 2021, and then presented to the public for comment on August 24, 2021.
- **Update presented for public comment on May 17, 2022.**

## Guiding Principles

- Support in-person learning
- Prioritize younger learners, students with disabilities, and English learners.
- Put education first
- Focus on Prevention
- Consider community needs.
- Be flexible and innovative

## Continuity of Services

- Accomack County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.
- Face-to-face instruction will be provided five (5) days per week.
- Remediation will be provided to all students who demonstrate on Growth Assessments, a learning lag in academics as a result of COVID-19 closures, fully remote/virtual or a hybrid learning model during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Four (4) Mental Health Counselors will serve any students or staff who express an interest or have been referred for additional social emotional and or mental health support.

## Instructional Schedule

- **Students will resume a pre-COVID instructional program.**
- All special subjects such as Music, PE, and Art will resume following safety guidelines.
- Safety Protocol will continue to be implemented.
- **Parents and visitors will be allowed in the building for programs and staff interaction.**
- Elementary students will arrive at 8:30 AM and their instructional day will begin at 8:45 AM, and end at 3:45 PM.
- Middle School students will arrive between 7:10-7:20 AM, with their instructional day beginning at 7:30 AM and ending at 2:30 PM.
- High School students will arrive between 7:10-7:20 AM, with their instructional day beginning at 7:30 and ending at 2:30 PM.

Pre-COVID-19 daily school operations will resume to include the following:

- Use of lockers (Middle and High)
- Small groups for Reading and Math (Elementary)
- Chorus and BETA (Elementary and Middle)
- Field Trips
- Parents access to the building
- Ceremonies and programs
- After school clubs

### **Strategies to Prevent Transmission of COVID-19 in Schools**

When the following prevention model has been implemented, studies have shown that infections and outbreaks in schools were reduced. Factors to guide decision-making about prevention strategies and school operations include:

#### **Steps to Guide Decision-Making about Prevention Strategies and School Operations:**

1. Evaluate the level of community disease transmission
2. Understand community level vaccination coverage
3. Consider the level of impact to a school
4. Understand community and school capacity and needs
5. Determine and implement a layered approach with multiple prevention strategies

#### **Periodic Review and Revision of Plan**

- During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Accomack County Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and Accomack County Public Schools will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidelines on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.
- Bi-monthly reports will be given by ACPS Health Coordinator to keep everyone informed about community spread and metric regarding COVID.
- Bi-monthly reports regarding transmission and cases will be discussed daily and decisions will be made accordingly.

#### **Core Indicators**

- VDH Dashboard
- Input from our Local Health Department
- Number of Positive cases in the schools
- Number of Outbreaks in the schools
- Mitigation Strategies

## Consideration of School Impact

Regardless of what the indicators determine, the more students or staff who interact and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of SARS-CoV-2 spread. While risk of introduction and transmission in a school may be lower when community transmission is lower, this risk is dependent upon the implementation of school and community mitigation strategies. **Adherence to mitigation strategies in schools and broader community will reduce the risk of introduction and subsequent spread of SARS-CoV-2 in schools.** Notably, even when a school carefully plans and prepares, cases of COVID-19 may still occur. Having detailed plans in place for the occurrence of cases in schools can help quickly mitigate the impact and may allow the school to remain open for in-person learning, if deemed appropriate in collaboration with the local health department.

| Criteria to Consider       | Level of Impact to a School*                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                            | Low                                                               | Medium                                                                            | High                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Transmission within school | Zero or sporadic cases with no evidence of transmission in school | Single outbreak or sporadic outbreaks in school. Sizes of outbreaks remain small. | Several outbreaks in school within a short time period; sizes of outbreaks are large or scope of outbreak is significant (e.g., multiple classrooms or grade levels are impacted). |
| Student absenteeism        | At baseline/Low                                                   | Slightly above baseline                                                           | High                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Staff Capacity**           | Normal                                                            | Strained                                                                          | Critical                                                                                                                                                                           |

The level of impact that COVID-19 transmission is having within a school itself should be evaluated per the framework above and should consider whether the currently circulating variant causes severe illness in children or adults. VDH and/or the local health department should be consulted for advice on how to interpret data on cases and outbreaks. If the level of impact to a school is worsening, or if medium or high levels of transmission within a school are ongoing and the circulating variant is causing more serious or severe illness, changes to current strategies may need to be considered. To inform these decisions, school officials should work with local health departments to assess and consider:

- the number of outbreaks experienced and their proximity in time to each other;
- the size of any outbreak(s) (number of cases and close contacts identified);
- the level of spread within the school (e.g., whether cases are confined to a particular classroom or grade level);
- the severity of illness caused by the circulating variant;
- the level of student and/or staff absenteeism due to illness or necessary isolation/quarantine and the staff capacity

## COVID-19 Health and Absenteeism

### Local Public Health Conditions

- Accomack County Public Schools (ACPS) will follow guidance from the VDOE and our local health department, along with our counterparts at the county and local levels. ACPS will monitor updates on COVID-19 risk levels, numbers of cases, and recommended

precautions. ~~ACPS will communicate clearly and regularly with school staff about recommended precautions like handwashing, wearing facial coverings with built in breaks to remove facial coverings during the school day, social distancing and staying home when sick.~~ Superintendent, school nurses or principal designee will be connected to the most recent information provided by our local health department and will follow the required protocols.

### **Monitoring absenteeism**

- Daily absenteeism will be monitored by school building administrators, teachers, and school nurses. Any trends or concerns will be shared with the local health department.
- ~~Daily Surveillance Report Sheet will be faxed or emailed to Tracy Dedicatoria, Epidemiologist, Eastern Shore Health District daily by school nurses or principal designee.~~
- First, School Nurses will notify their School Health Coordinator and their principal with any trends or concerns. Second, School Health Coordinator/principal will then notify the health department for guidance regarding trends or concerns. Third, School Health Coordinator/ principal will notify the Supervisor of the health departments recommendations regarding trends or concerns. Final, Superintendent will provide direction on how to proceed.

### **Five Key Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Schools**

Regardless of level of community transmission, it is critical that schools use, and layer prevention strategies are essential to safe delivery of in-person instruction and help to prevent COVID-19 transmission in schools:

- ~~Use of face coverings~~
- Physical-distancing when appropriate (during substantial or high transmission)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- ~~Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine~~
- ~~Parents should keep children home when sick and seek care and testing as appropriate~~
- Vaccination (Optional)
- Educate staff and parents regarding their choices pertaining to masking (Optional)
- School officials and staff should adequately and appropriately ventilate
- Encourage students, teachers, and staff to stay home when sick, and to seek care and testing as appropriate.
- Notify students and staff of known cases and/or exposures in combination with isolation and quarantine.
- Notify public health of outbreaks in a timely manner.
- Notify parents and families of a case of COVID-19 in schools when appropriate and ensuring confidentiality of known cases.

ACPS has Developed the Following Requirements for Implementation of the Face Covering Protocol

## **UNIVERSAL FACE COVERINGS**

### **➤ Face Covering Requirements**

- Students and staff are required to wear a cloth face covering while riding the school bus, when entering school, while in hallways/common areas, bathrooms, in the classroom and otherwise throughout the school day.
- Students will be instructed when they may take “mask breaks” and remove their cloth face coverings, such as during mealtimes, and when outdoors and more than ten feet apart from other people. Mask breaks will be 15 minutes maximum.
- During a mask break, students are required to place their face covering in an area designated by school staff. Face coverings should not be placed on tabletops or other communal surfaces.
- Parents are required to supply their student with a cloth face covering daily to use at school.
- Students should wear face coverings that are appropriate and abide by the student code of conduct.

### **➤ Face coverings should not be worn by the following:**

- Children under the age of 2.
- Students with a medical condition which causes the student to have trouble breathing, e.g., significant asthma or respiratory condition. *Parents are required to notify ACPS of the student's condition and follow the process identified under the Section: **Application for Exceptions to Cloth Face Covering**, below.*
- Students who are unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- When not developmentally or medically appropriate.

### **➤ Effective Face Covering Use**

- Ensure that face coverings fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Secure the face covering with ties or ear loops.
- Putting the face covering over their nose and mouth and securing it under their chin.

### **➤ Strategies to support students with using face coverings:**

- Parents, caregivers, and guardians are encouraged to practice wearing cloth face coverings with students at home before the first day of school. If parents, caregivers, and guardians’ model appropriate use of face coverings and help students get used to wearing them, students may be more comfortable using them.



- ~~Parents, caregivers, and guardians are encouraged to include students in the selection of their cloth face covering and/or the material that is used to make it. This might increase the student's acceptance of wearing the cloth face covering.~~
- ~~Introduce students with sensory concerns/tactile sensitivities to face coverings with a variety of materials, prints, and textures, and allow them to choose which face covering is most comfortable.~~

### ➤ **Application for Exceptions to Face Covering**

- ~~Parents should notify the school principal or designee of concerns with their student's ability to use a cloth face covering within five school days of the student's scheduled arrival for in person instruction to afford ACPS adequate time to review the parental concern and consider whether alternatives to the cloth face covering are appropriate and necessary for the student.~~
- ~~In the event the student's health or medical condition, such as asthma or breathing problems, would prevent the student from safely wearing a cloth face covering, the school administration will offer appropriate alternatives. Medical documentation should be provided to the school division about the student's health or medical condition.~~
- ~~In the event a student with a disability has sensory issues, tactile sensitivity or behavioral concerns that could impact a student's use of a cloth face covering, the student's IEP team or Section 504 committee will convene to consider strategies to support the student with wearing the cloth face covering.~~
- ~~A face shield can't be used in lieu of face covering.~~
- ~~For students riding the buses with accommodations (special transportation) these students will be picked up at the bus stop and if they do not have a face covering the bus aide will attempt to get the face covering on if able. The school bus will continue to reinforce the wearing of a face covering for several weeks. If the child continues to have a problem, contact the Director of Special Education for next steps.~~

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

### **Promote Physical Distancing:**

Physical distancing should be maximized to the greatest extent possible, but schools should not reduce in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.

### ➤ **Between students in classrooms:**

- ~~**In elementary schools,** students should be at least 3 feet apart combined with indoor mask wearing by all students and teachers/staff, regardless of vaccination status. If maintaining 3 feet distance is not possible in classrooms, such as when a school is at full capacity, it is especially important to layer other strategies such as masks, screening, ventilation, cleaning, staying home when sick etc.~~



- ~~In middle and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart combined with indoor mask wearing by those persons who are not fully vaccinated in areas of low, moderate, or substantial community transmission. During high transmission, consider a minimum of 6 feet distance standard for middle and high school students when cohorting is not possible.~~

### ➤ **Enhanced Physical Distancing**

- ~~Maintain at least 6 feet between adults who are not fully vaccinated, and between adults and students, at all times in the school building to the maximum extent possible.~~
- Maximize physical distance as much as possible:
  - ~~When masks cannot be worn, such as when eating.~~ For communal dining, maximize distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines; use additional space outside the cafeteria, if possible, to help facilitate distancing.
- During times of substantial or high transmission, or when the level of impact to school is high, schools may want to consider additional measures to optimize distancing such as:
  - Close or stagger the use of communal spaces.
  - Limit assemblies and other school gatherings.
  - Limit non-essential interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, or other situations that can lead to adult-to-adult transmission.
  - Prioritize educational settings over extracurriculars. This may mean temporarily placing limits on athletics and other extracurricular activities until transmission levels have declined.

## **HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE**

### ➤ **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
- If, soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used
- Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If, soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used
- Hand sanitizers will be located at every student entrance at each school.
- CDC Wash your Hands Posters will be posted throughout the schools.

## CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTH FACILITIES

### ➤ Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

- Additional hourly custodians will be hired for bathroom and surface cleaning on days of face-to-face instruction
- Clean
  - Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.
  - Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
    - Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt, and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.
    - More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use.
- Disinfect
  - ACPS will use EPA approved disinfectant
    - Classrooms will be disinfected each night after face-to-face instruction with an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer and cleaned with microfiber cloths.
    - Staff will follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
- How to clean and disinfect
  - Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces
    - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
    - For disinfection, ACPS will use EPA approved disinfectant or electrostatic sprayer.
- Always read and follow the directions on the label to ensure safe and effective use.
  - Wear skin protection and consider eye protection for potential splash hazards
  - Ensure adequate ventilation
  - Use no more than the amount recommended on the label
  - Use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label)
  - Avoid mixing chemical products
  - Label diluted cleaning solutions
  - Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children.
  - Special considerations should be made for people with asthma. They should not be present when cleaning and disinfecting is occurring as this can trigger asthma exacerbations.

- Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often
  - Immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used.
  - However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Hand Sanitizer
  - Hand sanitizer dispensers will be located at every student entrance at each school.
  - Keep hand sanitizers away from fire or flame
  - For children under six years of age, hand sanitizer should be used with adult supervision
  - Always store hand sanitizer out of reach of children
  - Always read and follow the directions on the label to ensure safe and effective use.
- Soft (Porous) Surfaces
  - For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
- Electronics
  - For electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and remove visible contamination if present.
  - **DO NOT APPLY LIQUIDS DIRECTLY ONTO ANY ELECTRONICS.**
  - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
  - Consider use of protective and wipeable covers for electronics.
  - If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes (damp cloth type) containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens and keyboard/keypad surfaces.
  - Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.
- Linens, Clothing, and Other Items That Go in the Laundry
  - In order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
  - Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.

Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.

- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene

- The risk of exposure to cleaning staff is inherently low. Cleaning staff should wear appropriate PPE for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
- PPE should be compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
- Additional PPE might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
- PPE should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to clean hands after removing gloves.
- PPE should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- Cleaning staff should immediately report breaches in PPE such as a tear in gloves or any other potential exposures to their supervisor.
- Cleaning staff and others should clean hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.

- Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas

- Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.
- Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds-it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public.
- High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or ground covers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.
- Spread of COVID-19 from these surfaces is very low and disinfection is not effective.
- Custodial manager will ensure adequate cleaning supplies will be available for employees.

- Correct use/storage
  - Follow manufacturer's guidelines for correct application and use of EPA approved disinfectants. Keep products out of reach and away from children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Ensuring adequate supplies to minimize sharing to the extent possible (e.g., dedicated student supplies, lab equipment, computers, etc.)
  - Keep each student's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or area
  - Ensure adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., art supplies) assign supplies to a single student, or limit the use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
  - Avoid sharing of drinks, food, and utensils.
  - Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
  - Avoid allowing students to bring toys to school.
  - If possible, at nap time, ensure that children's naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Consider placing children head to toe to further reduce the potential for viral spread. Each child will need to be assigned their own cot. These need to be cleaned daily. Each child has their own blanket. Should be washed weekly.

#### ➤ **Ventilation Systems**

- Classrooms and spaces without windows have the same air quality as those with windows.
- Opening of windows would adversely affect our HVAC systems.
- All systems are on an 11-week rotation of Preventative Maintenance (PM) which includes changing of filters in all filtrations.
- Current fiber filters meet state mandates.

#### ➤ **Water Systems**

- Facilities management will ensure that water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.

#### ➤ **Water Fountains**

- Water coolers will be in each school for water bottle filling for students and staff.
  - Feeds into existing water supply for water fountains.

### ➤ **Transportation**

- Operating on a system of Tiered Runs
  - All drivers will complete both an elementary and a secondary run for each day of face-to-face instruction except for those who serve in an instructional position.
    - Secondary schools will arrive/leave first, followed by elementary schools.
- Buses will be sanitized and cleaned between each run with electrostatic disinfectant sprayer and microfiber cloths.
  - Each school has a designated person in charge of cleaning buses and maintaining documentation.
- ~~Buses will have designated seating and social distancing based on current CDC recommendations and student surveys.~~
- ~~Students living within the same household will be seated together.~~
- ~~Buses will be loaded from back to front and conversely unloaded from front to back to mitigate exposure.~~
- ~~Additional training will be required for transportation staff covering cleaning, dealing with sick students, use of mask and student discipline.~~
- ~~All drivers and students will wear appropriate face coverings.~~

### ➤ **Food Services**

- Optimize social distancing in all aspects of food distribution.
- Masks, disposable aprons, and gloves will be utilized.
- Continue to practice the breakfast in the classroom meal service model for all elementary schools, and Grab N' Go breakfast in all middle & high schools
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria at all school levels. Cafeteria lines ~~will not~~ **will** be utilized to ensure proper social distancing and avoid congregation between students in cafeteria lines. All meals will be packed and distributed to students as they enter the cafeteria. Once students pick up their meals from the cafeteria staff **line**, they will proceed to their assigned seats. Students will be seated in a diagonal pattern on both sides of tables (students will not face one another while consuming their meals.) ~~No, a la' carte sales will be permitted, and all meals will be placed in air-tight a was packaging to ensure proper food safety and sanitation, while minimizing touching of surfaces.~~
- Students will be dismissed by table to dispose of their garbage in nearby trash cans as they exit the cafeteria for their next class.

### ➤ **Gatherings**

- ~~Limit size of gatherings consistent with Executive Orders and impose physical distancing place during gatherings.~~
- ~~Use virtual/live streaming platforms to limit the size of gatherings.~~
- ~~When in person meetings need to occur, keep meetings as short as possible, limit the number of staff in attendance, and use physical distancing practices.~~

- Limit the number of employees in break rooms and stagger breaks to discourage gatherings.
- Provide physical/social distancing markers for individuals to remind them to stay apart.

## CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

### ➤ Contact Tracing

- School's role:
  - Planning and implementation of prevention strategies
  - Risk communications
  - Disease prevention
  - Contact tracing
  - Determining when classrooms can be reoccupied after exposure
  - Isolation and quarantine
- Definition of a close contact includes an exception for K-12 settings for the purposes of within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 24 hours to determine the need for quarantining persons who have had a close contact exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- In indoor K-12 settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students are wearing masks and the school has other prevention strategies in place. (This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in indoor K-12 settings. Having direct exposure to respiratory secretions of someone with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on) is also considered close contact in any setting.

## STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

### ➤ Staying Home when Sick

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza or COVID-19 to stay home from school. Recommendation from the *Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Virginia PreK-12 Schools* includes following up primary care provider for testing and care.
- Provide excused absences for students who are sick if the student completes their work.
- School nurse or school nurse designee will use the VDH Guideline: *When Should a Child Stay Home from School and/or Child Care*.  
[https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/10/Child-School\\_COVID-19\\_Booklet.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/10/Child-School_COVID-19_Booklet.pdf)
- The school nurse or school nurse designee will use the Permission to Return to School/Childcare form from the Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics. The form will be updated as the CDC/VDH/AAP updates guidelines.



## **What to do if a Student Becomes Sick or Reports a New COVID-19 Diagnosis at School**

- Student(s) show signs of infectious illness consistent with COVID-19.
- Teacher or staff excuses student(s) from classroom, cohort, or area within the school. Alert the school nurse or principal designee.
- The student(s) will be taken to the isolation room/area and ensures student(s) is properly supervised and masked. The parent, guardian, or caregiver is called. Arrangements are made for student(s) to either go home or seek emergency medical attention.
  - Note: If multiple ill students must be placed in the same isolation room/area, ensure mask use, and stay at least 6 feet apart while supervised.
- Parent, guardian, or caregiver picks up student(s). Parent, guardian, or caregiver contacts healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.
- Clean and disinfect areas that the ill student(s) occupied.
- Ventilate the area(s), wait as long as possible before cleaning to let virus particles settle (at least several hours, and use personal protective equipment (including any protection needed for the cleaning and disinfection products) to reduce risk of infection.
- If student(s) negative COVID-19 test result.
- Student(s) return to school following existing school illness management policies.

## **COVID-19 Test Result**

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status, will need to isolate for five days. During this isolation period, students will be allowed to learn remotely.
  - If the student or staff no longer has symptoms after day five, they can return to school. If they still have symptoms, they should continue to isolate at home until day 10.
  - On days six-10, students and staff will be required to wear their masks at all times, including while outdoors. The only exception will be when eating or drinking. However, they will be encouraged to refrain from talking if possible when not wearing masks and are closer than 6ft social distance.
  - Students and staff who are fully vaccinated, and who have been identified as a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, will not have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. Testing is recommended.
- 
- ~~➤ Student(s) diagnosed with COVID-19 begins home isolation.~~
  - ~~➤ Nurses, teachers, staff, and principal starts a list of the ill student(s) and informs staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure.~~
  - ~~➤ Nurses or Principal designee works with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of student(s) that had contact with the ill student(s).~~
  - ~~➤ Parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children home (quarantine according to local health department requirements) and to consult with the student(s) healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.~~

- ~~Members of the ill student(s) household and staff who had close contact with the student are advised to quarantine according to local health department requirements.~~
- ~~The ill student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:~~
  - ~~10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND~~
  - ~~Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND~~
  - ~~Symptoms have improved.~~

### **Mental Health Services**

- The COVID-19 outbreak has caused major disruptions in daily life among our students. As we are preparing to return to school, Accomack County Public Schools will be providing Mental Health Services that will address the emotional stressors experienced by our student body.
- ACPS has one Coordinator of Student Services, one School Social Worker, and four Mental Health Counselors. The Mental Health Counselors are housed in four of our schools here in ACPS and are able to provide services to any student, faculty, or staff as the need arises for Mental Health counseling. In the event more intensive services are needed the team collectively will work in a concerted effort to provide other resources and services from outside community agencies.
- Our Mental Health team will be working to provide an array of resources needed to address the needs of students who may need more emotional support than the content provided in the classroom.

### **Making the Plan Available to the Public**

- Accomack County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public.
- The plan is posted on the ACPS webpage.
- The plan is posted on each schools' website.
- The plan is available in Spanish and Haitian Creole.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact the Coordinator of EL services to request translation.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Director of Special Education.

### **Disclaimer**

Changes to the health care plan will change frequently based on the minimum CDC recommendations and Accomack County Public Schools may or may not change in concurrence. Accomack County Public School system reserves the right to implement stricter guidelines to ensure the safety of all staff and students.

### **Contact information and Procedures for Reaching the Local Health Department.**

- J.J. Justis

Local Health Emergency Coordinator  
Eastern Shore Health District  
757-302-4267

[JJ.Justis@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:JJ.Justis@vdh.virginia.gov)

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