



**Augusta County Public Schools**  
18 Government Center Lane P.O. Box 960 Verona, VA 24482  
phone- 540-245-5100 fax- 540-245-5115

Given the recent developments with COVID-19 in the country and state, we feel it is important to communicate with families and our community about the manner in which ACPS is responding and preparing.

We have been advised by the Health Department of methods to help prevent the spread of viral respiratory illnesses, like seasonal influenza and COVID-19. Here are some tips to keep your child and our school community healthy.

- Staff and students should stay home when sick.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer frequently, especially before eating and after sneezing or coughing.
- Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue when you cough or cough into your elbow or sleeve.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Develop and maintain good health habits with regard to hygiene, diet, and sleep.
- Make sure that the school has parent contact information during the school day
- Ill children need to stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication or advised by a health care provider that they can return.
- For vomiting and diarrhea, students should stay home until 24 hours after the last vomiting/diarrhea episode.

In our schools, we continue to maintain thorough routines for cleaning and sanitizing. We are planning for additional cleaning efforts in classrooms, school buses, and buildings over the coming days/weeks.

ACPS is currently following our typical flu protocol and guidelines while remaining in close contact with the Central Shenandoah Health Department and the Virginia Department of Education in order to be ready to immediately respond to any COVID-19-specific guidance they provide. The School Board will make a decision regarding closing schools should the situation warrant this action based upon recommendations from the local Health Department.

We will continue to make use of resources from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health. We encourage you to review them and stay up to date as well.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>