



July 15, 2020 - Update on Current Health & Safety Plan for Re-Opening Augusta County Public Schools

As you know, our division is busy preparing for the re-opening of schools and compliance with Executive Orders and guidance from the Virginia Departments of Health and Education and other agencies. Our division's current health and safety plan for re-opening includes:

- face coverings for staff and students are required throughout our schools when 6 feet of social distancing is not possible which may include hallways, transition times, common areas, etc.;
- classrooms will be set up to promote 6 feet social distancing between students and staff, therefore face coverings will not be required in classrooms unless 6 feet social distancing cannot be met;
- face coverings are required on all ACPS transportation (buses and cars);
- daily health screenings for students & staff;
- families will be asked to conduct daily health screenings before school;
- requiring individuals to stay home if ill;
- social or physical distancing whenever possible;
- weekly deep cleaning/sanitizing as per division protocol;
- instructional spaces will be cleaned/wiped down between use by different groups of students;
- staff will be provided with face coverings;
- traffic patterns for separation at entry, and in place for transitioning and exiting;
- more frequent cleaning of bathrooms/classrooms/access ways;
- separation of students into small groups to travel to classrooms to minimize crossover or mixing;
- limiting daily interactions between groups of students (A/B schedule - approximately ½ of students reporting Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday);
- education and reminders for staff and students regarding hygiene, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette;
- limiting the use of communal areas and gatherings/events in facilities and outside;
- individually prepared meal service consumed in classrooms (or staggered with social distancing) with disposal utensils and packaging;
- limits on nonessential visitors and activities;
- minimizing sharing or co-mingling of items used by students or staff and segregating personal items as much as possible;
- frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and items that inevitably must be shared;
- isolation areas for any student or staff member who experiences symptoms during the school day;
- implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act;
- education for all ACPS community members (including parents) about signs and symptoms of COVID-19;
- continued collaboration with the local health department to determine any additional mitigation measures that may be recommended.

This is not a comprehensive list of steps ACPS will take; it is the division's current, anticipated plan to mitigate risks associated with COVID-19 in our school community. As additional guidance or options become available, ACPS will consider and implement additional measures appropriate to the circumstances. **The safety and wellness of ACPS staff, students, and families is a top priority as we plan for re-opening and providing instruction and other crucial services to our students.**