A FAMILY GUIDE FOR 2020-21 RETURN TO SCHOOL





FCPS—RESPONSIBLE TOGETHER



Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is partnering with families to ensure we keep students and staff safe and healthy as we return to school buildings for learning. Working together, we will follow recommended health guidance that focuses on student health, safety, and emotional well-being.

The information in this guide will help families know what to expect as students return to school. The guide includes steps families will need to take at home in preparation for the return to school. Please take time to review the information. We recommend talking to your children about how school will be different when they return. Ask them what questions they might have and share how we are all working together to prepare for a safe return. Have your children practice wearing a mask during the day. Discuss the importance of hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

Schools will notify families which student groups are returning to school if they selected in-person learning. An individual student's schedule, including days of the week and times for in-person attendance, will be communicated directly from the school. Families who selected virtual learning for the school year will be able to remain in virtual learning. Both students participating in virtual learning and in-person learning will receive the highest quality instruction from FCPS teachers.

For details on the Return to School timeline, see the student groups chart on next page. Our core focus remains the health and safety of students and staff. The Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Department of Health have published updated guidance for returning students to schools, including explicit health decision making guidance.

FCPS is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including:

- Washing hands often
- Avoiding close contact
- Covering mouth and nose with a face covering/ mask when around others
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Cleaning and disinfecting

Safety Teams will help monitor each schools' adherence to five mitigation strategies for COVID-19. These teams will conduct random onsite spot checks, deliver education and resources, and report data back to administrators. FCPS will also monitor health data to contain transmission of the virus within our schools.

This document is subject to updates. If and when the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic change, this guidance may also change.

STUDENT GROUPS



Group:	Description:	Days Per Week:	Return Date:	
Activities	HS VHSL activities & HS co-curricular	Determined by school	Determined by school	
Interventions	Select students identified by school (ES, MS, HS, SLIFE/Newcomer)	Determined by school	Determined by school	
Group 1	 Firefighting LPN Construction Student Auto Sales 	1-2 sessions per week	February 16	
Group 2	 Preschool Autism Preschool Class-based students 	4 full days per week	February 16	
	CosmetologyYouth Registered Apprenticeships	1-2 session per week		
Group 3	Key Center and Kilmer Center Adapted Curriculum: Enhanced Autism Classrooms (EAC) K-12 Intellectual Disabilities (ID), K-12 Intellectual Disabilities Severe (IDS) Noncategorical Elementary (NCE) students accessing curriculum in a special education setting Elementary Comprehensive Services Sites (E-CSS)	4 full days per week	February 16	
Group 4	Burke School (Elementary)	4 full days per week	February 16	
	Early Head Start	4 full days per week		
	PreK-K	2 full days per week	February 23	
Group 5	Intensive Support Needs Students instructed with modified curriculum for at least 50% of their core courses and instructed in special education settings 50% or more of their instructional day Specialized Center-based Programs (special education) Vision Program @ Robinson Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) Programs at Canterbury Woods ES, Frost MS, and Woodson HS Students with 50% or more of core content areas in special education settings	4 full days per week		
Group 6	Grades 1-2	2 full days per week	March 9	
Group 7	Grades 3-6	2 full days per week	March 16	
	Secondary Public Day Programs (special education) Burke School (Middle School) Davis & Pulley Center - All other students that have not previously returned to in-person instruction and Davis STEP	2 full days per week		
	• Grades 8, 9, 12	2 full days per week		
Group 8	Secondary Public Day Programs Cedar Lane and Quander Road Davis & Pulley Center students who age during the 2020-21 SY	2 full days per week	March 2	
	• Grades 7,10, 11	2 full days per week		
	 Poe, Glasgow, and Holmes Grades 6-7 Davis & Pulley Center students who age during the 2021-22 SY 	2 full days per week	March 9	

CONCURRENT INSTRUCTION

As students return to school, we will employ concurrent instruction for in-person students, a model in which instruction is accessible by students in school and at home at the same time. Students who choose to return to in-person learning receive two days of teacher-led instruction in the school building and two days of teacher-led instruction at home. Students who will remain as full-time virtual students will access

teacher-led instruction by logging into synchronous (teacher-led) instruction Tuesday through Friday from home.

Concurrent instruction maximizes teacher-led instruction (two days in person, two days virtual) by allowing in-person students to connect with their teacher via FCPS online platforms during at-home days.

ES Concurrent Instructional Schedule					
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	In-School	In-School	Online	Online	
	Online	Online	In-School	In-School	
	Online	Online	Online	Online	

Sample Elementary Concurrent
Schedule: Two days of instruction in
the school and two days of virtual
instruction at home—both led by the
teacher. Students who have selected to
remain virtual will continue to receive
virtual instruction all four days.

MS/HS Concurrent Instructional Schedule						
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
	Periods 1,3,5,7 In-School	Periods 2,4,6,8 In-School	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online		
	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online	Periods 1,3,5,7 In-School	Periods 2,4,6,8 In-School		
	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online		

Sample MS/HS Concurrent Schedule: Two days of instruction in the school and two days of virtual instruction at home—both led by the teacher. Students who have selected to remain virtual will continue to receive virtual instruction all four days.

Classroom Monitors

Classroom monitors are used when a teacher is instructing virtually from home.

If a teacher will be teaching virtually, a classroom monitor will be present to support in-person students in the classroom. The teacher and the students at home will still log into Blackboard Collaborate Ultra (BBCU). In-person students will be in the classroom and BBCU or Google Meet will be streamed in to interact with the teacher and engage in learning. The classroom monitor will set up the live session for the class and support in-person students as needed.

The teacher will still be doing all of the planning and the majority of the interacting with students; the classroom monitor will be following the teacher's directions to make sure students have what they need and will be available to help with additional face-to-face supports.

Aside from BBCU or Google Meet, the teacher and class can still use other digital tools that students are familiar with, such as G Suite tools or Blackboard.

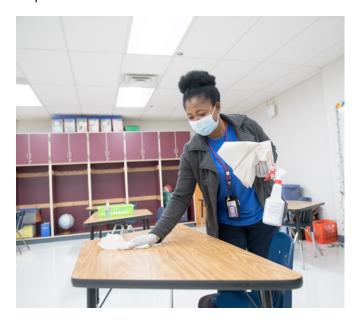
SCHOOL BUILDINGS | SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Temperature Checks

FCPS will no longer be requiring daily temperature checks at bus stops and upon arrival in FCPS facilities. Student, staff visitor temperatures are no longer required based the following reasons:

- CDC does not currently recommend schools conduct symptom screening for all students (PK-12) on a routine (e.g. daily) basis.
- Symptom screening will identify only that a person might be sick, not that the person necessarily has COVID-19.
- Accuracy off thermometers is limited in extreme temperatures.

Students, staff, and visitors will still be required to continue to compete a daily health screening. The health screening tool is available in English, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese. Health screenings are to be completed each day before coming to school or work. Anyone demonstrating symptoms of illness should stay home. Daily health screenings are completed on an honor basis and are not required to be submitted to the school.



Cleaning Protocols

FCPS cleaning personnel clean and sanitize the school building regularly.
Custodians use EPA-approved, hospital grade disinfectant and sanitizing products every day.
The following steps are performed to maximize our sanitizing efforts:

Sanitizing and disinfecting restrooms more frequently, including thoroughly disinfecting and sanitizing all surfaces, doors, toilets, and handles, and ensuring that all supplies are fully stocked.

Increased cleaning to high-touch surfaces/points such as door handles, glass, elevator buttons, doors, tables, chairs, and light switches. Daytime custodians have been instructed to continuously disinfect and sanitize all touch points throughout the day.

FCPS has updated health and safety guidance for air ventilation in schools. A comprehensive review of school ventilation systems was performed to ensure facilities are operating in accordance with CDC and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers guidance and the manufacturer's recommendations. Assessments and improvements include:

- Ensure all schools and offices have sufficient air ventilation
- Upgrading school HVAC systems to MERV 13 air filters
- Using HEPA filters and air purifiers in select areas
- Reviewing the use of UV-C lighting in classrooms and ventilation systems and its best application
- Third-party health and safety verification for all buildings

SCHOOL BUILDINGS | SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Lunch

FCPS offers grab and go meals for all students. For students participating in virtual learning, grab and go meals are available at school sites and on bus routes.

It is recommended that students attending inperson remain in the classroom whenever possible to eat lunch. If this is not possible, and it is necessary for students to eat in the cafeteria, the following is recommended:

If there are several classes to be accommodated, groups should be placed in opposite corners of the cafeteria.

- Students at the table, in their own cohort, will be at least six (6) feet apart from one another. Ten (10) feet apart is optimal, when possible.
- If it is necessary to mix cohorts in the cafeteria, they must be at least ten (10) feet from one another.
- Students must be facing the same direction
- Assigned seats (same person/same seat/each day) will help with contract tracing, if needed (in the case of children moving about and possibly coming closer than 6-feet of each other).

For outdoor dining:

- Students must wash or sanitize their hands immediately before and after lunch.
- Social distance of at least six (6) feet between persons.
- Face the same direction.
- Eat within 15 minutes, if possible, and put their face mask back on after eating.
- FCPS will continue to monitor data, and make adjustments as necessary.

Restrooms

FCPS cleaning personnel will be sanitizing and disinfecting restrooms more frequently. Their cleaning protocol will include thoroughly disinfecting and sanitizing all surfaces, doors, toilets, and handles, and ensuring that all supplies are fully stocked.

Library

School librarians will provide library services and instruction for students virtually, in their classrooms, or in the library following social distancing and safety guidelines. Library staff will assist students in PreK through grade 2 with book checkout. Students in grades 3 through 12 may use self-checkout stations that limit contact. Schools have the option to provide curbside checkout to students not attending school in person. Books that are returned to the library will have a 24-hour isolation period before they are available again to students. School staff will communicate how virtual students can check out books.

School Health Room and Care Room

Support to students in the Health Room will continue to be provided by the School Health Aide.

FCPS personnel will staff the Care Room. The care room is a designated location for students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. It is separate from the Health Room and is necessary due to the requirement for social distancing and room capacity. A designated staff member will be assigned to supervise students in the care room while waiting for the parent or guardian to pick up the student.

Students with Individualized Health or Action Plans who require specialized care, medication administration and emergency care will be seen in the Health Room. Parents will be required to bring in medications needed to support their student during the school day prior to or on the first day of school.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS | SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Recess

Playground apparatus, such as large structural equipment, swings, and jungle gym are approved for use. School staff will encourage students to play games or activities that minimize close physical contact and allow for social distancing unless otherwise directed by an FCPS staff member. Students must wear face covering/mask at all times because occasional close contact is expected during play. Students are to wash hands before going to playground areas and immediately following with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol easily accessible in playground areas for students and staff.

Guidance for Social Distancing on the Playground

- Playground apparatus (large structural equipment, swings, jungle gym, etc.) is approved for use.
- Students must sanitize their hands immediately before and after using the apparatus/equipment.
- Staff will encourage students to play games or activities that minimize close physical contact and allow for social distancing.
- Everyone must wear masks at all times because occasional close contact is expected during play.
- 10 ft. distance is to be maintained during physical activity.
- Students will wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds at the end of the recess period before returning to class.





STUDENT AND FAMILY SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Health Screening Commitment Form

All parents/guardians who selected in-person instruction for their child will be required to complete and return to school a Parent/Guardian Health Screening Commitment form as students are phased back into in-person learning. The document indicates the parental/guardian's agreement and commitment to completing a daily health screening prior to sending the student to school and also to keep ill students at home. The form may be returned electronically or via hardcopy.

Daily Health Screenings

A daily health screening will be required for all students attending in-person instruction. The health screening tool is available in English, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Daily health screenings will be done on an honor basis and will not be required to be submitted to the school each day.

STUDENT AND FAMILY | SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Face Coverings/Masks

All students who are two years of age and older are required to wear face coverings/masks (cloth or disposable) while on school property (including inside FCPS facilities, during FCPS-provided transportation and school sponsored activities). Disposable masks will be provided to students unable to provide their own. Any student requesting an exemption to wearing a face covering/mask due to a medical exemption will provide the school a written statement from his or her physician confirming that not wearing a face covering/mask is medically necessary. As a matter of public health, an exemption from the face covering/mask requirement may alter or preclude access to face-to-face instructional programming. Regulation 2109

RECOMMENDED face coverings/masks include:

Non-medical disposable face coverings/masks:

- Face coverings/masks that fit properly (snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face).
- Face coverings/masks with nose wire
- A description indicating multiple layers of nonwoven material
- For better fit and extra protection:
 - Wear two masks (Disposable mask underneath AND cloth mask on top)
 OR
 - A cloth mask can be combined with a fitter or brace

Cloth face coverings/masks

- Cloth face coverings/masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton).
- Cloth face coverings/masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light).
- Cloth face coverings/masks with two or three layers.

- Cloth face coverings/masks with nose wire
- For better fit and extra protection:
 - Wear two masks (Disposable mask underneath AND cloth mask on top)
 OR
 - A cloth mask can be combined with a fitter or brace
- Cloth face coverings/masks with inner filter pockets.
- Wear a gaiter with two layers or fold it to make two layers.

Face coverings/masks that are NOT recommended:

- Face coverings/masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight).
- Masks that are wet or dirty
- Face coverings/masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through (such as plastic or leather).
- Face coverings/masks made from loosely woven fabric or that are knitted, i.e., fabrics that let light pass through.
- Face coverings/masks with one layer.
- Face coverings/masks with exhalation valves or vents.
- Wearing a scarf or using ski masks as a mask.
- Single layer gaiters

FCPS recognizes that it may be difficult for many students to wear face coverings/masks all day during in-school instruction. School staff may consider building in supervised breaks during the instructional day where students may go outdoors and maintain social distance in order to take a break from wearing face coverings/masks. Students must sanitize hands immediately before and after mask breaks.

STUDENT AND FAMILY | SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Bus Transportation

- Schools will be sending bus transportation information to parents before the start of in-person learning. Seating capacity will be reduced to allow for social distancing. Students are reminded to wear a face covering/mask when riding the school bus.
- Students will be required to sit in seats as marked on the school bus.
- Students should load the bus from back-to-front and unload from front-to-back.
- Students are to be seated one per seat and closest to the window unless they are siblings coming from the same household.
- The first seat located behind the driver must remain empty except for the driver's own children/grandchildren
- Bus stop information will be available at the school and in ParentVUE.
- Here Comes the Bus app is available and provides school bus arrival information.

Beginning February 16, schools will operate on the revised 2020-21 bell schedule (check your school website for the bell schedule). The bell schedule adjustment is necessary due to social distancing requirements which limit capacity on school buses. The bell schedule change applies to students who selected in-person learning as well as students who selected full-time virtual learning.

School Arrival and Dismissal

Each school has an updated arrival and dismissal process. Bus transportation students will not arrive and depart from the same areas as walking students, carpool, kiss and ride, and before/after school private providers. Some schools have two arrival and departure areas. Please check with your school to be aware of their process for arrival and dismissal.

Social Distancing at School

Social distancing should be maintained as much as possible. In limited cases, exceptions may occur when a student requires support for activities of daily living that may make staff unable to maintain a distance of six feet or caring for infants. In all other cases, six feet of social distancing should be maintained as much as possible.

- Six foot separation wherever possible; limited mixing among student groups.
- Social distancing on buses in accordance with health and safety protocols.
- Desks/seats will be separated by up to a six feet distance, facing same direction.
- Students will eat meals in classrooms whenever possible. Each school will determine their best meal distribution process.
- Student traffic patterns in hallways will be set up to maintain social distancing, including during arrival and dismissal.
- Students transitioning to after-school care will also follow traffic patterns in the hallways to maintain social distance.

Please discuss the importance of maintaining social distance with your child. It is important for children to understand that common interactions (holding hands, hugs, high-fives, sitting close to other students) are not allowed when social distancing. School officials will do their best to remind students of the need to maintain social distancing. That said, parents should recognize that maintaining social distancing will be challenging for many students and that mishaps are likely to occur among students when school officials are not present.

STUDENT AND FAMILY | SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Handwashing

Students will wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; before eating, and upon entering classrooms. There will be breaks provided during the day for handwashing. Automatic hand sanitizer dispensing stands have been placed at school entrances and 1-gallon pump containers of hand sanitizer are available in all classrooms.

School Supplies and Communal Classroom Items

Students will be required to label and maintain their own personal set of required classroom supplies, keep supplies in their backpack and take them to and from school each day. Middle and high school students will not be using lockers.

Electronic devices, toys, books, games or learning aids are not to be shared unless they can be cleaned or disinfected.

Students should bring their own water bottle for use during the day. Water fountains can be used to refill water bottles if practical, but students and staff should not be drinking directly from any water fixtures; individual water bottles should be used instead.

Whenever possible, and when developmentally appropriate, supplies/school materials should be placed directly into backpacks by students.

Student Laptop

Students returning for in-person school should plan to bring their FCPS-assigned laptop and charger with them to school and take that laptop and charger back home each day. Students will need their laptops to support digital learning activities in school, as assigned by their teacher, and extra laptops may not be available in all classrooms. The laptop should be fully charged before coming to school each morning to ensure it is ready to use when the student gets into the classroom. This practice will allow your student to continue to use the same assigned laptop at home and at school in order to limit the number of shared surfaces among students.

Parents may gently clean the laptop when necessary by using an alcohol wipe or disinfectant wipe to wipe down the keyboard and external surfaces. Do not spray disinfectant spray on the device or apply hand sanitizer directly on the device as it may damage the electronics.

Students who are learning from home should continue to use their FCPS laptop as they have throughout the year, and students or parents may submit a support request ticket (https://itweb.fcps. edu/itsupport/) if technical assistance is needed. To maintain overall laptop health, all students should shutdown their FCPS laptop completely at the end of each day. Note that due to the unknown and unpredictable security and support risks of exposing FCPS student laptops to foreign networks, out-of-country travel with an FCPS student laptop is not permitted.

Visiting FCPS Facilities

When possible (unless an emergency) visitors must schedule appointments prior to visiting a school by contacting the main office. All visitors will be required to complete a health screening questionnaire prior to entering the building. All visitors are required to wear a face covering/mask (cloth or disposable) while on school property and inside FCPS facilities. Visitors who do not have face covering/mask will be provided a disposable mask upon entering a school. Visitor access should be limited to essential activities.

IF SICK AT SCHOOL/HOME

Becoming III While at School



Students demonstrating any of the following symptoms will be sent home from school:

- Fever (100.4 or greater)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste/smell
- Sore throat
- Fatique
- Muscle aches
- Runny Nose/Congestion
- Stomachache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Headaches

The parent/guardian will be notified and Sick Student Notification and Return to School Forms will be sent home.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, FCPS follows protocols provided by the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD). Each case will be handled individually in accordance with the FCHD established communicable disease and contact tracing protocols. FCPS will follow established guidelines for communicating information to parents/guardians. For more information visit www.vdh.virginia.gov.

Student Illness at Home

If a student becomes ill at home, the student should stay home from school. Parents need to contact the school and report the reason for their child's absence. Parents will need to follow established procedures when contacting the school regarding student illness. Parents/guardians will be required to complete and return the Permission to Return to School/Child Care Form (page 2) when the student returns. The form will be completed by the health care provider and will indicate to the school when the student may safely return.



RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER ILLNESS

Returning to School After Illness

Families will receive guidance from the FCHD Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and School Health Aides (SHAs), identified as the school health team, as to when their student can return to in-person learning.

Students who are showing signs of COVID-like illness may not return to school until:

- Student has tested negative for COVID-19 OR
- A healthcare provider has seen the student and documented a reason for the symptoms other than COVID-19

OR

- All of these are true:
 - 1) at least 10 days since the start of symptoms AND
 - 2) fever free off anti-fever medicines for 24 hours AND
 - 3) symptoms are getting better

Students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, may not return until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started AND
- The student has had no fever or anti-fever medicines (ex: Tylenol, Ibuprofen) for 24 hours AND
- The student's symptoms are getting better

Students who have been exposed to COVID-19:

If someone in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or the student is exposed, the student must remain home for 14 days after their last exposure to the household member.



RESPONSE TO COVID CASE IN CLASSROOM



Response to a COVID Positive Case at School

- The school will send general notification to the entire school community when a student, staff member, or visitor tests positive for COVID-19. This will let families and staff know that the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) will follow-up with case investigation and contact tracing.
- Based on guidance from the Fairfax County
 Health Department (FCHD), FCPS may
 temporarily pause in-person instruction,
 athletics or school activities for anyone identified
 as a potential exposure during the case
 investigation and contact tracing. For more
 information on our COVID response process,
 please view FCPS COVID Notification Process
 video.
- The FCHD will determine any close contacts and will contact those individuals directly to provide the appropriate guidance, which may include quarantine. A close contact is defined as someone who has spent more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period within 6 feet of someone who has tested positive. For more information, visit Contact Investigations on Fairfax County Health Department website and/ or What to do if you were potentially exposed to

coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Virginia Department of Health website.

- When the FCHD has completed all contacttracing, FCPS will send out a final notification letting the school community know that the process has been completed.
- FCPS has a COVID-19 Health Metrics dashboard that documents all positive cases at schools.
- A family may decide to return a student to virtual learning at any point if they deem it in the best interest of the child. Students have the ability to return to virtual learning at any time, for any length of time.

Transitioning to Virtual Learning May Be Impacted by Staff Capacity

Staff capacity is the ability for a school to maintain adequate staff for teaching, facility operations, transportation, and administrative functions. When there are higher numbers of staff unable to report to work due to COVID-19 symptoms or they have been directed to quarantine as a result of contact tracing, schools may be temporarily unable to offer in-person instruction for a period of time. When this occurs, FCPS will communicate with families as soon as possible regarding the need to transition to distance learning.

RESOURCES

Mental Health and Wellness

All children and youth face challenges from time to time managing emotions such as feeling depressed, anxious, or worried. As students prepare to return to in-person learning, these emotions may be heightened. School counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers are available to support all students as they transition back to their school buildings. Every school in FCPS has at least one counselor, psychologist, and social worker. These professionals can provide guidance for families and support for students who may be struggling with anxiety, mood, behavior, or peer or family interactions. They can also connect students and families with available community resources.

Contact information for your child's school counselor, school social worker, and school psychologist can be found by visiting your school's website.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis, or if you believe there may be a mental health emergency, call 911. Additional Mental Health Resources and Emergency Services Information is available at fcps website.

Helpful Links



Many resources have been developed to support students and families with learning this year. Visit www.fcps.edu and search:

Concurrent Instruction (Small groups instruction)

Mental Health Resources and Emergency Services Information

Parent/Guardian Health Screening Commitment form

Return to School

Health and Safety Guidance Document for Students

Plus

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Permission to Return to School/Child Care Form (page 2)

Virginia Department of Health