

Tiered Mitigation Strategies for the Classroom

The below tiered strategies are meant to support schools in implementing the mitigation strategies reflected on the [FCPS Health Safety Website](#).

Tier 1 Strategies

Student Routines:

- Required Masking
- Washing/sanitizing hands in a routine manner (entering/leaving classroom, etc.)
- Individual materials/supplies used by students
- Disinfect shared materials/supplies after each use

Furniture

- Desks and tables are sanitized as often as possible on a regular basis
- Desks and tables are spread apart with space in between any desk/table cluster
- Small numbers of students (up to 4) assigned to table or desk cluster(s)

Social Distancing

- Students PreK-12 are socially distanced to the extent possible: it is recommended K-12 students be distanced by 3 feet (or greater), and PreK students are socially distanced by 6 feet. To allow for all students to be accommodated with in person instruction, distance may be reduced as needed.
- For small group work (e.g., guided reading/guided math), students are to be placed 3 feet apart with teacher 6 feet apart from students.
- Limit small group time to 15 minutes total, when possible
- Seating charts are required in all classrooms
- Utilize outdoor areas (tents, courtyards, fields) for lunch AND instruction to the maximum extent possible
- Elementary:
 - Seating charts are required in the cafeteria
 - Snack time is conducted outside as much as possible with social distancing
 - When snack time is conducted inside, it is done in small groups/students sent into pod/hallways

Tier 2 Strategies

Tier 2 includes all the strategies included in Tier 1. Schools with high rates of transmission will be a high priority for Safety Team visits. The following strategies to include but not limited to should be implemented when there are high rates of transmission in a school:

- Increase social distancing between students and staff as much as possible (create more room in classrooms by removing furniture and/or rugs, utilize more desks facing one direction)
- Elementary schools should pod students to the greatest extent possible so that they are always near the same students (i.e., Student X sits near the same 2-3 students in the cafeteria, art, music, and in the classroom.)
- Review and implement recommendations from Safety Team regarding cleaning, disinfecting, handwashing, mask wearing and contact tracing.

Instructional Considerations in Classrooms:

- Use materials and technology (e.g., Smartboard, big books, document camera, voice amplifier) that will allow students to see and hear information regardless of the location in the classroom.
- Check-in individually with students during lessons.
- Provision individual materials to limit movement around the classroom when possible.
- Ensure pods are maintained when using instructional strategies that require student interaction or collaboration.
- Use devices to encourage collaboration, communication, and to access digital materials (e.g., manipulatives, texts, student journals) when possible.
- Use plexiglass, face shield and/or PPE when in closer proximity to students (e.g., small group instruction, one on one instruction) to assist with adult comfort level. (This is not considered a layer prevention strategy).