

**Fairfax County School Board's
SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SHAC)
MEETING AGENDA for January 31, 2022**

***Location: Conference Room 4051 at Gatehouse Administration Center
8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042
January 31, 2022 @ 4pm**

***SHAC Members may opt to participate virtually during the Covid Emergency**

The SHAC will be meeting Monday, January 31, 2022, at 4 p.m. SHAC committee members may participate in-person or virtually due to the Covid 19 emergency. In-person attendance will be held in Conference Room 4051 at the Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia will be available from 4pm – 5pm.

Public Comment at SHAC Meetings: Fairfax County and City residents who would like to make public comment may attend the meeting in person at the location indicated above or may submit a video or audio testimony in advance of the meeting by email to lmskurpski@fcps.edu. Please submit video or audio testimony by 5:00pm on Friday, January 28, 2022. A maximum of 5 slots are available, first come, first served. **Video and audio testimony should not exceed 3 minutes in length.**

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| 1. Call to Order | Phyllis Payne |
| 2. Public Comment (if any) | TBD |
| 3. Review and Approval of Drafted Joint SHAB/SHAC Letter | Committee |
| • Arlington County School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) | |
| • Fairfax County School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) | |

Committee Charge for 2021-2022

SHAC will focus on student anxiety. We will look for schools modeling approaches that are helping students flourish by promoting mental health for staff, students, and caregivers. We will identify ways to publicize and share such examples. Time permitting, we hope to create webinars or podcasts to interview and share positive outcomes from schools with creative ideas to share

TO: Arlington, **Alexandria**, and Fairfax County School Boards and Superintendents

FROM: Arlington County School Health Advisory Board (SHAB)
[Alexandria City School Health Advisory Board (SHAB)]
Fairfax County School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)

DATE: January 26, 2022

RE: Support for Continued COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies, Including Universal Masking

The Arlington Public Schools School Health Advisory Board ([APS SHAB](#)), **[the Alexandria City Public Schools School Health Advisory Board (ACPS SHAB),]** and the School Health Advisory Committee of the Fairfax County School Board ([FCPS SHAC](#)) strongly recommend the continued use of universal masking in our public schools as part of a robust effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 variants and keep our schools open.

We echo the perspective of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Northern Virginia Health Directors in asking that the School Boards continue following the most up-to-date Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, which recommend mask wearing in schools.

The CDC “recommends universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K – 12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.” The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also supports universal masking, noting that “face masks can be safely worn by all children 2 years of age and older, including the vast majority of children with underlying health conditions, with rare exception.”

We support and encourage your commitment to maintaining vital in-person instruction and we oppose any reduction in mitigation measures during this period of high community disease transmission.

The current Omicron variant surge is driving teacher, staff, bus driver, and student absenteeism, threatening the medically vulnerable in our community, and straining our health care and community resources. We believe limiting transmission through a multi-layered mitigation strategy, which includes mandatory masking of students and staff, will enable our schools to stay open, 5 days per week, until the current crisis subsides.

We appreciate your leadership in keeping schools safe for in-person learning, and we look forward to our continued partnership to safeguard the health, safety, and wellbeing of our children and communities.