



## Patrick County Public Schools Reopening of Schools Health Plan

The phased reopening of schools will require Patrick County Public Schools to conduct operations very differently in order to protect the health of staff and students while public health risks of COVID-19 persist. PCPS seeks compliance with the CDC Guidance for Schools and the Virginia Phase Guidance.

### **Planning to reopen**

Patrick County Public Schools has established a COVID-19 team consisting of division leadership. The PCPS COVID-19 team maintains close contact with the Emergency Services Coordinator. The collaboration between emergency services and school officials has included conversations with local health officials.

### *Attendance monitoring*

PCPS will monitor absenteeism to identify trends in employee and student absences due to illness. PCPS will work collaboratively with VDH to report and monitor trends.

### *Communication*

COVID related policies and procedures will be communicated to staff and families via school website, School Messenger, and/or email. Should there be an exposure or outbreak, local health officials, staff and families will be notified immediately while maintaining confidentiality. Staff and students will be trained in COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

### *Health Services*

PCPS health services staff will maintain non-COVID-19 health related services for both staff and students. Health staff will be provided with medical grade PPE. Instructional staff will participate in mental health and well-being training. School counselors will have designated time to provide social emotional learning support.

### **Promoting behaviors that reduce spread of COVID-19**

#### *Education*

Patrick County Public Schools recognizes the importance of promoting healthy hygiene and providing COVID-19 prevention education to staff, students and families. In order to facilitate these discussions, PCPS will utilize a variety of educational formats including training, School Messenger reminders, website postings and posters throughout buildings.



Safe Schools training for staff will include: Coronavirus Awareness. This training discusses hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and staying home when sick. CDC posters to include:

- How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering
- Stop the Spread of Germs
- How to Protect Yourself and Others
- How to Wash Your Hands

### *Healthy Hygiene*

Patrick County Public Schools will maintain an adequate inventory of healthy hygiene supplies to include hand soap, hand sanitizer, and tissues at each school/building.

### *Physical Distancing*

Patrick County Public Schools will reduce the number of students who physically attend school on an alternating schedule to ensure social distancing is maintained. Communal spaces will be closed when unable to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

PCPS nutrition department will serve students both breakfast and lunch. Students will eat both meals in individual classrooms or in the cafeteria following social distancing guidelines. The nutrition department will utilize disposable products as available in order to minimize contact with shared surfaces. When unavailable, materials will be properly sanitized and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Students will be permitted to bring their own meals.

All Executive Orders regarding gatherings and physical distancing will be followed. In addition, all school related sports and activities will follow relevant Virginia Phase Guidance for Schools and CDC guidance.

## **Maintain Healthy Environments**

### *Health Screening*

Patrick County Public Schools will implement health screening questionnaires for all staff and students on a daily basis. Staff members will self assess each day prior to entering the building. Questionnaires will be communicated to families so that students



may self assess prior to boarding the bus or entering the school. Upon arrival, students will be screened for temperature and symptoms prior to entering the building.

#### *Hygiene Practices*

Patrick County Public Schools will implement cleaning and disinfecting protocols for all departments and buildings. School buses will be disinfected each day. All school staff will receive training on cleaning and disinfecting due to COVID-19. Custodial staff will disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and between attendance groups. Custodial staff will receive training on new materials and products and ensure proper storage and adequate inventory is maintained.

Hand sanitizer stations will be placed in each classroom and common area. To minimize exposure due to shared supplies and devices, Patrick County Public Schools will continue its 1:1 technology device initiative and promote individual work space and supply use.

#### *Systems*

Patrick County Public Schools maintenance department will ensure ventilation systems operate properly by continuing routine maintenance schedules. Water testing schedules will continue to maintain high water quality. Students will be encouraged to bring water from home.

### **Maintaining Healthy Operations**

#### *High Risk Populations*

Patrick County Public Schools will offer blended and remote learning options for all students, including high-risk populations. Health plans, IEPs, and Section 504 plans will be considered to meet the needs of all students. Students will be required to wear face coverings both on the bus and in school. Staff will be required to wear face coverings. Increased cleaning efforts will be enforced to protect all students and staff.



### *Gatherings, Field Trips, Volunteers*

Patrick County Public Schools will adhere to state guidance regarding social gatherings. Schools will limit field trips to virtual trips only.

Non-essential visitors and volunteers will not be permitted.

### *Continuity of Operations*

In order to ensure continuity of operations, staff will be cross-trained in COVID-19 protocols.

## **Protecting Vulnerable Individuals**

### *Sick Leave*

Patrick County Public Schools will utilize a flexible COVID-19 attendance practice that enables students to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed. For staff members, Patrick County Public Schools will utilize attendance policy GCBD-R as well as the Family's First Coronavirus Response Act (Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Act) to enable staff to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed.

### *Return to Work/School after exposure*

Patrick County Public Schools will follow CDC and VDH guidelines for both staff and students to return to school following an exposure or illness.

### [CDC Return Guidelines](#)

## **Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick**

Should students or staff members present with symptoms, all schools will have a separate area for immediate isolation. The alternative space being used for those with clinical signs of illness will be supervised and cleaned thoroughly between uses.

Students will remain in the isolated area until the parents/guardians are contacted and transportation is arranged for their child to home or a healthcare facility.



In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators will notify the local health department, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality. School nurses may assist the local health department in contact tracing.

**Preparing to close down if necessary, due to severe conditions**

Local school officials will collaborate with local health officials to determine which conditions may trigger a reduction of in-person classes or a complete school closure. During the collaboration, the operation guidance from the CDC and VDH will be referenced.

[CDC Operation Guidance](#)

*Guidelines are subject to change according to current guidance.*