



Appomattox Regional Governor's School COVID-19 Safe Return to School Plan

2021-2022

Appomattox Regional Governor's School
512 W. Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
(804)-722-0200

Overview

As Appomattox Regional Governor's School (ARGS) continues instruction during the 2021-2022 academic year we will offer in-person learning. Stakeholders should know that ARGS will follow the mitigation strategies as outlined below as well as continue to seek guidance from the Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Virginia Department of Education. Additionally, staff have consulted with participating school divisions and healthcare personnel to consider prevention and response strategies. Student and staff health and safety are our priority. This document will serve as a guide but will be adapted as need indicates. Ongoing support from school divisions, parents, staff, and students is very much appreciated as we continue to provide high-quality learning opportunities for our students at ARGS.

Mitigation Efforts & What Steps Have Been Taken to Ensure Student and Staff safety?

- Option to wear masks by staff and visitors according to DOLI standards
- Minimum 3 feet distancing at all times
- Lunch protocols
- Several physical changes have been made to assist with health safety, including:
 - New bathroom door pulls that are hands free
 - Glass protectors on service desks
 - Conversion of all drinking fountains to filtered water-bottle filling stations
 - Installation of [MERV-13](#) filters throughout school HVAC system
 - Hand Sanitizers available on every hallway of the school
 - Use of Victory Sprayer in the evenings to disinfect surfaces in common areas
- Consultation with Crater District Health Department
- Consultation with Medical Professionals
- Consultation with Participating School Divisions
- Review of guidance from VDH, CDC, and VDOE
- Staff Training

What is required of students?

- Parents have the option per SB739 to opt their child out of wearing a mask. Wearing masks is optional for students.
- Student entry points are limited to Door 1 and Door 5 (Bus Loop).
- Students must remain in their classroom during the block. If a student needs to leave class for any reason during the block, the student must have a written pass from the teacher.

- Students should bring a refillable water bottle to school for use at bottle filling fountains that have been installed in the building.

What is required of staff?

- Staff have the option to wear a mask while in the building
- Staff must maintain social distancing while in the building and refrain from congregating in common areas.
- Notify the clinic if a student becomes ill during class.

What if a student or staff member is exposed to COVID-19?

- What is exposure or close contact?
 - **A close contact is someone you were within 6 feet (staff to student) or 3 feet (student to student) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period who has tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether either of you were wearing a mask. Per health district guidelines once an individual tests positive the COVID team looks back 2 days prior to the positive test as that is identified as the time period when the individual is contagious. If a student was not within 6 feet of a positive individual during the 2 days prior to the positive test then they are not considered a close contact. You are NOT considered a close contact if you are fully vaccinated.**
 - CDC recommends that those who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and is UNVACCINATED stay home for 14 days after your last contact with that person, stay away from others, and monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. An unvaccinated individual has the option of getting a COVID-19 test done between 5-7 days of exposure date. If the test comes back negative the individual may return to school prior to the end of the 14 day quarantine period.
- What is the process of notifying individuals who are considered a close contact?
 - When we have been notified of a positive case in the school we meet as a COVID-19 team. The team consists of administration, nurse, and school counseling. The team reviews teachers' seating charts to determine any individuals who could be considered a close contact. We also identify who the positive individual eats lunch with and how they are transported to school. If the positive individual rides a bus then the county transportation office is called and a bus tape is requested to help with contact tracing.
 - Once close contacts have been identified, a member of the team calls each individual's parent/guardian to notify them of the positive exposure. If the close contact is fully vaccinated then there is no need for quarantine. If the

close contact is NOT vaccinated then they are asked to quarantine for 14 days and/or complete a COVID-19 test during the 5-7 day window after exposure. If the test comes back negative then the individual can return to school.

- An email is sent to all staff and parents to notify of a positive test result in the school.

What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

- The staff member or parent should notify Nurse Cook or Dr. Tenia upon receipt of a positive test result.
- Nurse Cook or Dr. Tenia will contact the Crater District Health Department to notify them and receive guidance on how to proceed.
- The Crater District Health Department will likely conduct contact tracing and will provide recommendations regarding quarantining and time to remain away from school/work.
- Once guidance has been received notification will be provided to parents and staff via email by Dr. Tenia.

Who is not required to stay home (quarantine) after having close contact with someone with COVID-19?

- People who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as long as they have no symptoms.
 - Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of the second dose of a two-dose vaccine, or 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.
 - CDC recommends that any fully vaccinated individual who has been a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case get tested 2-5 days after contact with the positive individual.
- People who have had close contact with a person who was a close contact with a person who was a close contact to someone with COVID-19. (contact of a contact)

What if a student or staff member feels sick while at school?

- Should a student or staff member feel sick while at school, he/she should visit Nurse Cook to have symptoms assessed. Nurse Cook will make a determination if that person should remain at school or not.
- If the nurse determines that the student needs to be picked up early from school, someone should be available to pick the student up within an hour of notification.

If a student or staff member is sick, when may he/she return to school/work?

- If a student/staff member has been sick with an illness that is not COVID-19, he/she should remain out of school/work until he/she is fever free for 24 hours.
- If a student/staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, **he/she may return 10 days after his/her positive test and 24 hours without a fever (without the use of medication) and other signs of illness are improving. We are continuing the 10 day isolation period due to the size of some of our classrooms and our extended lunch time. We cannot guarantee that a person who returns from testing positive for COVID will be able to maintain their distance and keep their mask on at all times while in the building.**

What about extra-curricular activities?

- At this time all sports and performances will continue as normal.
- Per VHSL, athletes do not have to wear a mask while playing; however, all spectators, officials, coaches and athletes not actively playing will be required to wear a mask.
- Performances will continue and will follow CDC guidelines. All audience members will be required to wear a mask.

Notifications & Communication

- All communication related to COVID-19 will be sent via email by Executive Director, Dr. Meagan Tenia or Nurse Cook.
- Questions regarding specific COVID-19 incidents or situations may be sent to Nurse Cook or Dr. Tenia. All staff will refer questions to them.
- It is critical that accurate information be shared in a timely fashion. Dr. Tenia or Nurse Cook will share information that is pertinent to the school community via email once guidance has been provided.

Resources

- Virginia Department of Health Guidelines for K-12 Education:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/k-12-education/>
- Virginia Department of Health - Crater Health District:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/crater/>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Guidelines for Schools:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- EPA - Filtration for HVAC Systems:
<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/what-kind-filter-should-i-use-my-home-hvac-system-help-protect-my-family-covid-19#:~:text=Filters%20with%20MERV%2D13%20or,filter%20installed%20as%20the%20default.&text=By%20itself%2C%20using%20an%20upgraded,protect%20people%20from%20COVID%2D19.>

COVID-19 Student Daily Health Self-Assessment

IMPORTANT HEALTH QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD BEFORE THEY LEAVE FOR SCHOOL.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of exposure to other students and staff members, Chesterfield County Public Schools asks families to make sure that students perform a daily self-assessment of their health status before leaving for school.

Students must not go to school if they are sick or answer yes to any of the questions below. Parents should seek guidance from their child’s health provider if the student answers yes to two or more questions or has a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher.

By reporting to their school, students are attesting that they have answered NO to the questions listed below.

Self-Assessment Questions – Please answer these questions honestly	Yes	No
1. Have you or anyone in your household received a confirmed diagnosis for COVID-19 by a COVID-19 test or from a diagnosis by a healthcare professional in the past 14 days?		

<p>2. Have you or anyone in your household had close contact with or cared for anyone diagnosed with, suspected to have, or experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath etc.) within the past 14 days? (close contact is being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, or sharing a living space) <i>***Healthcare workers using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) would not be considered as exposed to COVID-19.</i></p>		
<p>3. Do you, or anyone in your household have <u>2</u> or more of any of the following symptoms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Body aches • Repeated shaking or chills • New, persistent cough for unknown reasons • Shortness of breath for unknown reasons • Congestion or Runny nose • Change in taste or smell • Diarrhea - 3 or more episodes within 24 hours • Nausea or Vomiting • Sore Throat 		
<p>4. Take Your Temperature. Is the temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or above?</p>		

If you answered YES to any question, then you must remain home and not come to school. It is recommended that you isolate yourself from others, monitor your symptoms and contact your health provider for guidance.

COVID-19 Guidance

Employee Daily Health Self-Assessment

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of exposure to our employees and citizens, employees must perform a daily self-assessment of their health status consisting of: REVIEWING A SET OF COVID-19 RELATED HEALTH QUESTIONS and TAKING THEIR OWN TEMPERATURE before reporting to work.

As a condition of employment, all employees must agree to perform this self-assessment each workday and to not come to work if they are sick or answer yes to any question on this form. Employees should seek guidance from their health care provider should they answer YES to any question below or have a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher.

QUESTIONS THAT EMPLOYEES MUST REVIEW EACH DAY BEFORE COMING TO WORK

Self-Assessment Questions – Please answer these questions honestly	Yes	No
<p>1. Have you received a confirmed diagnosis for COVID-19 by a COVID-19 test or from a diagnosis by a health care professional in the past 10-14 days?</p>		
<p>2. Have you had close contact with or cared for anyone diagnosed with, suspected to have, or experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath etc.) within the past 10-14 days? (close contact is being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, or sharing a living space) <i>***Healthcare workers using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) would not be</i></p>		

<i>considered as exposed to COVID-19.</i>		
<p>3. Do you, or anyone in your household have <u>2</u> or more of any of the following symptoms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Body aches • Repeated shaking or chills • New, persistent cough for unknown reasons • Shortness of breath for unknown reasons • Congestion or Runny nose • Change in taste or smell • Diarrhea - 3 or more episodes within 24 hours • Nausea or Vomiting • Sore Throat 		
<p>4. Take Your Temperature. Is the temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or above?</p>		

If you answered:

NO to ALL questions, then you can proceed to work today!

YES to any question, then you must remain home and not come to work and notify your supervisor. It is recommended that you isolate yourself from others, monitor your symptoms and contact your health care provider for guidance. You must provide return to work clearance from a health care provider before returning to work. However, if you answered YES to question number 2 but have no illness symptoms, you may return to work on day 11 after the date of initial exposure without the need for testing or clearance to return to work from a health care provider.