



Appomattox Regional Governor's School's COVID-19 Health Plan -

Appomattox Regional Governor's School is committed to the academic success of all students while providing a safe and healthy learning environment. In accordance with Gov. Northam's Phased Reopening for Schools Plan, Appomattox Regional Governor's School is required to submit a health plan outlining the strategies to be implemented to mitigate the public health risk of COVID-19. The Phase III Health Plan herein outlined was developed in collaboration with the ARGV COVID-19 Task Force and the Petersburg Health Department.

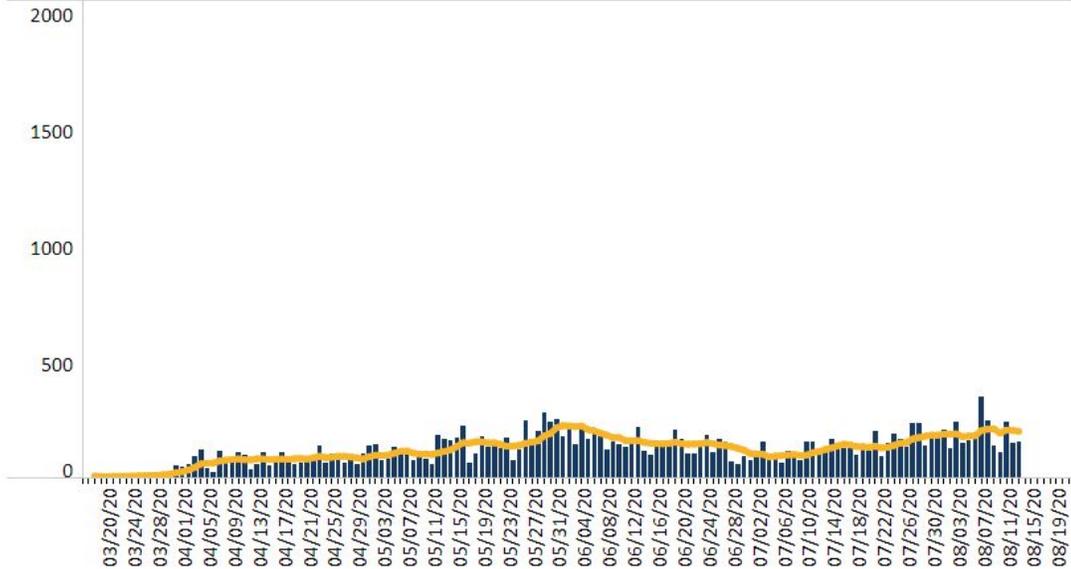
1) Local Public Health Conditions

The Appomattox Regional Governor's School for Arts & Technology (hereafter referred to as ARGV) is a regional Academic Year Governor's School program serving Amelia County, Charles City County, Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights City, Dinwiddie County, Franklin City, Hopewell City, Petersburg City, Powhatan County, Prince George County, Richmond City, Southampton County, Surry County, and Sussex County. The school is closely associated with its fiscal agent, Chesterfield County Public Schools (hereafter referred to as CCPS), and primarily follows policies and procedures of the district. Due to the program's regional nature, there are some areas of divergence from standard procedures of the program and CCPS and governance of the program falls under the authority of the Regional Board (composed of one member from each participating district School Board) with input from the committee of Superintendents. In the context of the highly specialized curriculum and nature of this program and significant differences from the CCPS Health Plan, ARGV is providing this stand-alone Instructional Plan.

Due to our location, we fall under the Petersburg Health Department district and have followed the Virginia Department of Health Data for the Central Region, to assist in decision making.

Total Cases by Date Reported - Central Region

Number of new cases VDH reported by day.



2) Planning to Reopen

ARGS has formed a COVID-19 team task force that will review and modify its phased plan for reopening schools on a regular basis. The team will include:

- Dr. Brendon Albon - Executive Director
 - balbon@args.us
- Mrs. Veronica Kouassi Small - Assistant Director
 - vkouassi-small@args.us
- Ms. Diane Cook, RN - School Nurse
 - dcook@args.us
- Ms. Princess Jackson - Director of School Counseling
 - pjackson@args.us

A. Petersburg Health Department contacts are:

- Dr. Alton Hart
 - alton.hart@vdh.virginia.gov
- Ms. Jessica Hudson
 - jessica.hudson@vdh.virginia.gov
- Ms. Katrina Saphrey
 - katrina.saphrey@vdh.virginia.gov

B. Development of Student Absence Monitoring System

Student absenteeism will be monitored daily by the front office staff using an absence monitoring log, and will refer these absences to the school nurse for follow up. The school attendance clerk will contact the parent/guardian of a student without a scheduled absence to determine the reason for the student's absence. Confirmed COVID-19 cases will be communicated directly with the local health department.

C. Development of Communication Plan

Our communication plan for reopening schools will include:

- Orientation and training for staff and students specific to COVID-19 mitigation strategies.
- Plans for communication with staff, parents, and students of new policies.
- Plans for how to communicate an outbreak or positive cases detected at the school:
- The Executive Director will communicate all confirmed COVID-19 cases to the health department and will coordinate or assist with contact tracing as needed.
- The school nurse will collaborate with the Supervisor of Facilities Services for cleaning procedures/updates, Executive Director and front office staff , and assist with contact tracing if needed.
- If any school community member is found to have Covid-19 or might have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, the school will complete and share publicly template communications provided by the Petersburg Health Department.

D. Community response efforts

Contact Tracing:

- The school nurse has completed the contact tracing training recommended by the local Health Department.
- The Virginia Department of Health has developed specific guidance for collaborating with schools in contact tracing and outbreak investigations.
- See **Appendix A**-Contact Tracing as a Partnership Involving VDH, the Child and Parents/Guardians, and Schools/Child Care Programs

ARGS is working with the Virginia Department of Health to promote and support the usage of the COVIDWise App.

E. Preparation of Student Health Services

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- The school has obtained more than an adequate amount of PPE supplies for health services, custodian and maintenance, food services, transportation, and instructional staff. PPE supplies include:
- Disposable face masks
- Cloth face coverings
- N-95 respirators (masks)
- Disposable gloves
- Disposable gowns
- Disinfectant products
- Face shields

School Health Services:

- The school nurse is prepared to maintain typical (non-COVID-19) health services
- Isolation rooms will be designated in the school building
- Isolation rooms will be used to separate individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19
- The school nurse will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for individuals who are sick. See **Appendix B**

Provision of Mental Health Services:

ARGS school counselors are available for parent consultations, remote counseling sessions, and face-to-face counseling sessions (on an as-needed basis) throughout the summer in preparation for reopening schools. Additionally, school counselors will be available for mental health support when school reopens. ARGS is following the [VDoE's guidelines on Mental Health](#). See **Appendix C**

3. Promoting Behaviors That Reduce Spread of COVID-19

Staff, Student, and Parent Education of Illness Prevention Recommendations & Supplies

Educational materials are available to staff, students, and families on effective COVID-19 and illness prevention strategies prior to school reopening. COVID-19 prevention education will be part of all staff and student orientations and will be sent to all parties prior to schools reopening. Educational topics will include:

- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Use of face coverings
- Staying home when sick
- Encouraging physical distancing
- Adequate supplies to promote healthy hygiene habits are maintained at each school facility
- Signs and posters promoting healthy hygiene habits as well as COVID-19 symptoms will be displayed prominently both inside and outside of school facilities.
- Staff must use surgical masks or cloth face coverings (with multiple layers), as is medically appropriate, when in the presence of others
- Students must use cloth face coverings (with multiple layers), unless medically exempt due to a documented health condition
- Promotion of Physical Distancing
 - Layout of Facilities
 - Staff have modified layouts of classrooms, communal areas, and bus seating assignments to ensure social distancing is maintained
 - The number of persons in a classroom will be reduced by half to promote physical distancing of at least 6 feet among individuals within the classroom to the greatest extent possible
 - All students arrive through gym entrances and receive health checking before entering the main building. Students with elevated temperatures are isolated in a cooling area. Students who “fail” the thermometer test twice will be isolated until parents come to collect the child.
 - Stairwells will be made directional, up or down only.
 - Bathrooms are limited to two persons at a time.
 - Cafeteria is for food pickup only. Seniors will be allowed to eat lunch in the outside courtyard. Other students will eat lunch in their before lunch classroom.
 - Fire and lockdown drills will be conducted as normal. Tornado drills will be suspended for this period of time.

- Student assemblies will be held virtually.
- Students will be released at the end of the day, by floor.
- Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
 - Extracurricular activities (such as clubs) will be offered as long as social distancing mitigation strategies can be implemented
 - Indoor and outdoor recreational sports will occur when 10 feet of physical distancing is maintained by all instructors, participants, and spectators with the exception of incidental contact or contact between members of the same household
 - This applies during instruction, practice, and during competitive events
 - Competition that involves close contact with other athletes will be avoided
 - For school athletics:
 - The total number of attendees (including both participants and spectators) will not exceed the lesser of 50% of the occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy if applicable or 250 persons
 - For sports played on a field, attendees are limited to 250 persons per field
 - Coaches and sponsors must abide by the school precautions set forth in the VHSL Phase 3 Guidelines and VDoE Return to School Guidelines.
 - Approval must be given on the appropriate form through all administrative processes prior to the start of any activity
 - See **Appendix D**

Other social distancing measures during Phase III will include:

- Prohibition of field trips
- Visitors (excluding parents or guardians of students and ARGs employees) are not allowed in school buildings without permission from the executive director or his designee.
- Permitted parents, contractors and vendors entering school facilities will also complete a health assessment prior to entry.

4. Maintaining Healthy Environments and Operations

Staff Health Assessments

- All staff will have temperature checked prior to reporting to classrooms or offices daily

Student Health Assessments

- Communication designed to educate families on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be developed and disseminated to families prior to schools reopening. Families will be expected to monitor their children's health and keep children at home if they show COVID-19 symptoms, or if someone in their household is under quarantine or in isolation for COVID-19. During Phase III, parents or guardians are required to complete health assessments on their children daily prior to sending children to school
- All students arrive through gym entrances and receive health checking before entering the main building. Students with elevated temperatures are isolated in a cooling area. Students who "fail" the thermometer test twice will be isolated until parents come to collect the child.
- If students show signs of illness while at school, the school nurse will conduct a more in depth health screening prior to entry to the school. If the student is determined to meet COVID-19 criteria, they will be isolated and parents will be required to immediately pick up children who are sick

Hygiene Practices

- Cleaning and disinfection protocols will be implemented that are consistent with [CDC recommendations](#) and include expectations for cleaning frequently-touched surfaces and transport vehicles **See Appendix E**
- The frequency of cleaning and disinfection will be substantially increased beyond the schools normal protocol prior to the pandemic
- ARGS has ensured that it has an adequate amount of cleaning supplies and materials for custodian staff and for all classrooms.
- 14 Additional hand sanitizer dispensers have been incorporated into the school facility
- Handwashing stations are being upgraded to include hot water and antibacterial soap.
- Disinfecting wipes will be issued to every classroom and every child will be required to wipe down their desk surface at the end of class.

Ventilation Systems

- Ventilation systems have been inspected and improvements have been made to ensure systems operate properly
- All Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in school facilities are working properly and have fresh air supplies integrated into each system.
- All filters will be replaced throughout the building before students arrive.
- Four air purifiers systems have been purchased for the school's sub-basement and clinic.

Water Systems

- The school continues to operate the water systems within the facility during the school closure
- Water fountains will be closed during Phase III. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home. Water may be provided for those students in need.

Continuity of Operations

- The school will have trained back-up staff to ensure continuity of operations. Factors that have been considered include:
 - Training for substitutes to fill in for the school nurse and front desk areas
 - Training substitute teachers to ensure familiarity with this health plan and school processes to maintain safety
 - Identification of principal designees at the school

5. Protecting vulnerable individuals (e.g. 65+, underlying health conditions):

When an employee presents documentation from a medical provider confirming that the employee is at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, the school will consider the following options to support the employee: **See Appendix F**

- Modified job duties (where possible).
- Remote instruction opportunities (virtual teaching).
- Teleworking (where possible).
- Upon request, exploration of reasonable accommodations in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Using flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable faculty and staff to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed, including:

6. Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

- Students or staff presenting with COVID-19 symptoms will be assessed and treated in a separate isolation room
- The school nurse will use the COVID-19 screening flow chart to clinically assess students for COVID-19 symptoms **See Appendix G**
- The assessment will determine whether students are able to remain in school or be sent home
- The school nurse will contact parents or guardians immediately if students meet criteria for being sent home
- Students will remain in the isolation room until their parents or guardians arrive
- The school will implement frequent cleansing and disinfection practices of these isolation rooms as well as school clinics used by individuals who are sick
- ARGS will communicate with the local health department to initiate public health investigation, contact tracing, and consultation on next steps

7. Planning to close down if necessary, due to severe conditions.

Decisions about closing the school or reducing the size of in-person class sizes will be made in collaboration with the local health department.

- The school has considered factors that may trigger a *reduction in in-person classes*. These factors include:
 - A regression of phases designated by the governor (i.e., Virginia regresses from a Phase III to a Phase II or Phase I)
 - An increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases in Petersburg or surrounding districts
- The school has considered factors that may trigger *school closures*. These factors include
 - A student diagnosed with COVID-19
 - A staff member diagnosed with COVID-19
 - A regression of phases designated by the governor
 - Recommendation of the local health department

APPENDIX A-Contact Tracing as a Partnership Involving VDH, the Child and Parents/Guardians, and Schools/Child Care Programs

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/06/VDH-Schools-and-Contact-Tracing_062620_Final.pdf

APPENDIX B-Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/standard-precautions.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html>

APPENDIX C-Recover, Redesign, Restart 2020

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/covid-19/recover-redesign-restart-2020.pdf

APPENDIX D-VHSL GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15_XyOzREyKHkuEhxKAhaldTMJJESIhV/view

APPENDIX E-CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

APPENDIX F-CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

APPENDIX G-COVID-19 Screening Flow Chart

<https://app.lucidchart.com/invitations/accept/3a2a9cd9-c388-4bf3-9197-5d3058605b02>