2022-2023 Multiple Layers to Mitigate COVID-19 Transmission in Schools

LCPS continues to monitor and follow guidance for COVID-19 prevention as provided by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Loudoun County Health Department (LCHD). LCPS will continue to work closely with the LCHD and implement strategies such as promoting vaccination, promoting staying home if sick, respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing when recommended, and isolation to significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Face Coverings (Masks)
Masks are not required.* Masks are optional in school, on buses and on LCPS property for students and visitors.* The VDH has information about masks available on [their website](). We encourage all families to talk to their students about their mask decisions. We will encourage all students to be accepting of their peers' choices and will continue to foster an affirming and welcoming environment.

> ***Masks are required for Head Start programs.** Masks are still required for participants in Head Start programs in schools and on buses serving these programs*. ([Head Start Office]())
>
> **Field Trips**
> On a field trip, or for an activity, wearing a mask will be governed by the rules at that destination.
>
> **LCPS-Issued Masks**
> If they choose to wear a mask, students are expected to supply their own mask. Emblems, words or pictures on the face covering must comply with the Student Code of Conduct and [Policy 8270 Student Dress Code]().

Enhanced Cleaning
Custodial staff clean each building daily, including all high-touch surfaces such as door handles, railings, and faucets, which are wiped down with disinfectant once per day. LCPS has installed MERV-13 filters in all HVAC systems and placed mobile HEPA filters throughout all schools and offices. Buses are cleaned daily. Dining tables are wiped down with sanitizer between each use. Passive temperature screening using thermal cameras may be utilized.

Vaccinations
Vaccinations are the leading public health strategy to prevent hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 and are available for children ages 6 months and older ([CDC COVID-19 Community Levels]()). For information on where to find your vaccine, visit [https://www.loudoun.gov/5485/COVID-19-Vaccine-Prevention]().

Reporting a COVID-19 Case
Please let your school nurse or health clinic specialist know if your student has been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19. [VDH guidance]() states that persons who test positive (regardless of vaccination status) should isolate themselves at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5, provided that either:
- If the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10.
- If the individual is unable or unwilling to mask during this time (including children under age 2), VDH recommends a negative test on or after Day 6 in order to return to programming
- OR the person should remain home through day 10.

We will recommend, but not require, that students follow these recommendations. Check VDH guidance.

Exposure to COVID-19

For individuals who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, quarantine is no longer recommended in educational settings, regardless of vaccination status.

Exposed individuals may continue to attend school and school activities as long as they remain without symptoms. Exposed individuals may choose to wear a mask when indoors around others for 10 days after exposure and may consider testing for COVID-19 on or after day 5 after exposure.

Exposed individuals who begin to experience symptoms in the 10 days after exposure should stay home, consult their medical provider, and seek testing.

COVID-19 At-Home Tests Available

A free diagnostic test is available while supplies last from your student's school. Should your student experience symptoms you suspect are COVID-related, you may obtain a test from your school. Should your student be sent home from school with COVID-related symptoms, you may also opt for a diagnostic test from the school.

Contact Tracing

As VDH no longer requires schools to contact trace individual COVID-19 cases, LCPS will no longer contact trace individual cases. In accordance with VDH guidelines, LCPS will continue to partner with the LCHD and contact trace if there are outbreaks or when sustained transmission is thought to be occurring within a classroom or school.

COVID-19 Dashboard

Since COVID-19 reporting and contact tracing is through VDH, families should visit VDH-See the Numbers to learn about COVID-19 Data in Virginia or in Loudoun County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also publishes a COVID-19 Community Level tool that helps communities and families decide prevention steps to take based on the latest data.