



# Cumberland County Public Schools

## Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

### 2021-2022

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. This plan describes how Cumberland County Public Schools (CuCPS) will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full-in person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to Elizabeth Jamerson, Assistant Superintendent.

CuCPS has made a conscientious effort to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and instituted mitigation strategies division wide. Division administrators maintained in continuous contact with the Piedmont Health District, participating in weekly virtual meetings regarding local health trends. The division also implemented procedures for contact tracing, quarantining, and providing updates to parents and other stakeholders. The division holds periodic vaccination clinic for staff members as well as a clinic for students ages 5 through 18 as approved. Reports regarding COVID-19 cases and vaccination status of staff members were reported as required by VDOE and CDC guidelines. Training for staff, students, and parents regarding COVID19 has been provided.



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## Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

CuCPS has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned is below.

CuCPS will continue to maintain communication with local and state authorities to determine current status of COVID-19 spread in the community. The division will also continue to identify, protect, and support vulnerable students who are at higher risk for severe illness and provide a remote learning option for learning. Access to facilities will also be limited, based on current CDC guidance and the Governor's Executive Orders.

In addition, CuCPS has implemented procedures on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

- Universal and correct wearing of masks.  
All students, staff, parents, and approved visitors will be required to wear masks that cover the mouth and nose. Masks will be available for students who forget their masks. Posters demonstrating the correct way to wear masks will be posted around school. This will include all students and staff members on the bus or in school vehicles. The mask mandate will be in place following guidelines issued by the Governor's Executive Orders.
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.  
Social distancing will be maintained following the CDC guidelines of 3 feet to the greatest extent possible, considering that all students will have the opportunity to return to school 5-days a week for the 2021-2022 school year. Alternate meeting sites (i.e., LPJ Conference Room, cafetorium, outdoor learning spaces, etc.) may be used for larger classes. Students will be discouraged from congregating in large common areas unless social distancing can be maintained. Athletic activities will be conducted as sanctioned by the Governor's Office and the Virginia High School League. Schools will modify lunch schedules and eating places to maximize social distancing, which may include some students dining in classrooms.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.  
Handwashing will be encouraged. Teachers will instruct students on the importance of handwashing and provide opportunities for handwashing during the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and hand sanitizer stations will be positioned in prominent positions, including near doorways. Students will be instructed to practice respiratory etiquette by following guidelines such as moving away from others when coughing or sneezing, covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, disposing of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle, and using hand sanitizer frequently.
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.  
The division will maintain adequate supplies to promote healthy hygiene, including disinfectant wipes and cleaning products. All staff members will receive bags containing the supplies upon returning to school. Custodians will have adequate cleaning supplies for disinfecting and training for sanitizing all school areas. Custodians will also have access to Clorox Electrostatic Sprayers to disinfect rooms. The custodial coordinator will provide training for custodial staff and develop cleaning schedules, including for routine

cleaning of all areas. Transportation staff members will disinfect buses and other school vehicles after each transport. All water fountains will be wrapped to prevent use and signs will be posted prohibiting use of fountains. Individual bottles of water will also be available for consumption. Teachers will be encouraged to open windows whenever possible to provide better ventilation. The CHS/CMS Complex and CCES both have relatively new heating/cooling systems. All filters are routinely changed and the county maintenance department monitors existing ventilation systems. Air purifiers have been provided as deemed necessary. The division promotes the use of outdoor classroom experiences to the greatest extent possible.

- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments.

Students and parents will be encouraged to report cases of COVID-19 to school administrators. The division will continue with contact tracing when cases are identified. All students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined according to CDC guidelines. Students and staff members who came into close contact with those testing positive for COVID-19 will also be quarantined following CDC guidelines. Students who display symptoms of COVID-19 at school will be isolated and parents will be called to pick up their children.

- Diagnostic and screening testing.

Parents will be sent a health screening checklist and will be asked to complete the screening each morning prior to sending children to school. Parents will be asked to keep children who exhibit symptoms or who are not feeling well at home. Students with temperatures above 100° F will be asked to return home. Staff members will self-screen. Anyone displaying symptoms of illness will be asked to return home. Office staff members will have equipment to take temperatures of anyone seeking entrance into buildings as deemed necessary.

- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

CuCPS continues to host vaccination clinics for staff, students, and parents, and to encourage all stakeholders to become vaccinated by utilizing strategies such as sending flyers home, sending automated alerts, and posting information about community clinics on the division webpage.

- COVID-19 Testing

CuCPS will participate in the ViSSTA At-Home Diagnostic Kit program whereby schools receive kits to give to students and staff in accordance with program regulations as kits are available.

- Compliance with OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard

CuCPS will comply with OSHA's ETS when it is in effect which mandates that employers having more than 100 employees require that employees get fully vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID-19 tests. In keeping with this ETS, the division will adopt a policy and develop regulations.

- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

CuCPS currently provides in-person learning five days a week for all students in grades pre-K through 12 for the 2021-2022 school year. However, the division recognizes the need to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and for those with specific health needs. To protect vulnerable populations, CuCPS will offer a remote

option, primarily using Virtual Virginia courses, for students whereby students will continue to practice distance learning. A one-to-one electronic device initiative has been implemented. The division also provides WiFi hotspots to needy students to the greatest extent possible. Protocols will be put into place to minimize the sharing of student supplies and materials, such as lab equipment. The Special Education Director, with the assistance of the Special Education Master Teachers, will monitor progress of students with disabilities to ensure that adequate services are being provided.

- Coordination with state and local health officials.

CuCPS maintains in frequent contact with the local Health Department, the Piedmont Health District Office, the Governor's Office, the Virginia Department of Education, and Virginia High School League. The division participates in weekly calls with the Piedmont Health District to review updated information on the area spread of COVID-19 as well as to go over updated guidance from the CDC. The Superintendent participates in calls with the Superintendent of Public Education in Virginia as called. In order to facilitate the coordination of information, CuCPS has done the following:

1. Established a COVID-19 team within the school division.

Dr. Donald C. "Chip" Jones, Superintendent  
 Dr. Elizabeth G. Jamerson, Assistant Superintendent  
 Mrs. Bernice Ford, Director of Special Education  
 Dr. Sheri Almond, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
 Mrs. Virginia Gills, Principal of Cumberland Elementary School  
 Mrs. Wendy Tillett, Assistant Principal of Cumberland Elementary School  
 Mr. Andrew Hoyt, Principal of Cumberland Middle School  
 Mr. Jason Mawyer, Assistant Principal of Cumberland Middle School  
 Mr. Eugene Williams, Principal of Cumberland High School  
 Mrs. Ashley Long, Assistant Principal of Cumberland High School  
 Ms. Michael Camden, Supervisor of Custodial Services and School Nutrition  
 Mr. Jeffrey Dingeldein, Network Administrator

2. Designated School Based COVID-19 contacts.

Cumberland Elementary School—Mrs. Virginia Gills ([vgills@cucps.k12.va.us](mailto:vgills@cucps.k12.va.us))  
 Cumberland Middle School—Mr. Andrew Hoyt ([ahoyt@cucps.k12.va.us](mailto:ahoyt@cucps.k12.va.us))  
 Cumberland High School—Mr. Eugene Williams ([ewilliams@cucps.k12.va.us](mailto:ewilliams@cucps.k12.va.us))

3. Established communication with the local health department.

Cumberland County Health Department, 15 Foster Road, Cumberland, VA 23040, 804-492-4661 (also to be contacted when cases occur and for contact tracing)

4. Designated Health Department Contact Information.

Dr. Maria Almond, Local Health Emergency Coordinator for Piedmont Health District, [maria.almond@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:maria.almond@vdh.virginia.gov), 434-392-3984

Ms. Stephanie Martin, Public Health Investigator,  
[stephanie.martin@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:stephanie.martin@vdh.virginia.gov), 804-584-6474

5. Established procedures for reaching the local health department.

Superintendent Chip Jones, or his designee, will contact the Health Department by phone or email to solicit updated information, obtain clarification of guidelines, and/or report cases of COVID-19. Positive cases for students will be reported to the Piedmont Health District using the online portal. Positive staff cases will be reported to the Department of Labor and Industry using the online portal.

### **Section 3: Continuity of Services**

CuCPS has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

In order to address these needs, CuCPS will do the following:

- Keep schools open for in-person learning five days a week on a regular schedule as long as it is safe to do so.
- Provide a remote learning option for vulnerable learners.
- Add additional instructional staff, including a teaching and learning specialist for each school, an additional special educator with paraprofessional, an additional two classroom teachers at the elementary school to reduce class size, and an additional school counselor.
- Secure the services of a school social worker for the 2022-2023 school year as funding allows.
- Provide for an additional day of services from the contracted school psychologist.
- Provide training for staff members on social/emotional learning as deemed appropriate.
- Continue to provide breakfast and lunch for all students engaging in remote learning, through both pick-up as requested.
- Assist teachers in providing academic acceleration for students through professional learning in topics such as analyzing and using performance data, providing reading instruction, and using project-based learning, and engaging students.
- Provide training for custodial staff on cleaning and sanitizing techniques.
- Provide the nurses' stations, classrooms, and offices with masks and hand sanitizer.

### **Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment**

The Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services will first be reviewed by the Administrative Council. Then multiple opportunities will be provided to solicit public comment, including the following:

1. The Plan was posted on the division website for parents to view at <https://5il.co/xl5n>. A Survey Monkey survey will be available for parents or other stakeholders who wish to comment.
2. The Plan will be presented at the January 6, 2022, meeting of the Cumberland School Board, with an opportunity for additional public comment.

3. A copy of the Plan was posted at the School Board Office and an opportunity for public comment.

All comments received were reviewed and discussed by the Administrative Council. Changes were made as were deemed appropriate.

Changes will also be made as required by updated CDC guidelines and Governor's Executive Orders.

### **Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan**

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), CuCPS will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and CCPS will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

### **Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

CuCPS has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://5il.co/xl5n>.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents into Spanish by request by calling 804-492-4212.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting 804-492-4212.

## APPENDIX

### Health Screen Checklist

The following checklist should be used by students and staff members prior to attending class/going to work each day. Please select “Yes” or “No” for each item on the list. If you answer “Yes” to any of the below questions, you should stay home until 14 days after your last exposure or at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Take your temperature. Was your temperature more than 100° F?	NO	YES
Have you been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?		
Do you feel ill?		
Do you have any of the following:		
• A new cough or new sore throat		
• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing		
• Chills		
• Fatigue		
• New muscle or body aches		
• Congestion or runny nose		
• A new headache		
• New loss of taste or smell		
• Vomiting (unidentified cause, unrelated to anxiety or eating)		
• Diarrhea		

Student/Staff Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Building: \_\_\_\_\_