



January 2, 2021

Dear PCPS Families,

We hope everyone has had a wonderful and restful holiday season. As we look to restart our instructional year, there is some important information we need to share. Please take a moment to read this information completely.

Weather for Monday, January 3, 2022

PCPS is monitoring the inclement weather that is being forecasted for Monday morning. If there are any changes to the schedule for Monday January 3, we will communicate that information as soon as possible. ***We ask all families to be prepared in the event we need to delay the start of school in the morning or close completely.*** More information about our inclement weather practices can be found [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Updates

The Page County Community and many others across the state and country are experiencing a surge in Coronavirus cases. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have updated their quarantine recommendations, which will significantly impact our operations. Below are a few updates related to COVID-19.

Decision to Move the Entire Division to Remote Learning

At this time, we are not planning to move the entire division to remote learning for a specific period of time as was done last year in many school divisions. When we return tomorrow (Jan. 3, 2022), we will continue with full in-person learning. This decision could change if there is new guidance from the VDH, the CDC, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), or from an entity such as the Health Commissioner or the Governor of Virginia.

Classroom or School Closures

Individual classrooms or an entire school may be moved to remote learning for a short period of time due to staffing issues, outbreaks, or large numbers of student/staff absences/quarantines. PCPS understands that these decisions not optimal for all families and they will only be made when absolutely necessary. ***We are asking that all families be prepared for this at any point in time.*** These decisions will be made on a case by case basis in consultation with the school administrators and the Loud Fairfax Health District.

Students will continue their learning remotely during these times with specific details coming for the school and teachers. During these times of remote learning, PCPS will also continue to provide meal packages to families.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

When we return to school, we need to return to being vigilant with all of our COVID-19 mitigation strategies. This includes strategies such as the wearing of masks, washing of hands often and well, practicing physical distancing, checking for symptoms daily, cleaning high touch spaces, contact tracing, getting vaccinated, and staying home when sick.

All faculty, staff, students, and visitors are still required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status and we ask that you be vigilant about wearing them properly. This also includes times when students and staff are on school buses and in other division vehicles.

It is very important that you check your child's health before school each morning and keep them home if they are not feeling well or displaying any symptoms. A full list of COVID-19 symptoms can be found on the PCPS COVID-19 website or by clicking [HERE](#).

Updated CDC Quarantine Protocols

In December of 2021, the CDC updated its quarantine protocols. A summary of those protocols can be found [HERE](#). We will continue to update this document as new information or scenarios warrant.

Per the VDH, any school division has the discretion to be more stringent with quarantine and isolation periods. PCPS will monitor health data and may require longer quarantine/isolation periods or require additional testing when needed or depending on the situation or activity.

COVID-19 Testing Information

PCPS has access to at-home test kits that can be provided to students. The school nurse or administrators can provide additional information. These tests do require access to the Internet and must be done with a virtual proctor. You can view more information on the PCPS COVID-19 website through the [BionaxNow Home Kit Informational](#) video. PCPS is working through the Virginia School Screening for Assurance (ViSSTA) testing program and the "Test to Stay" process with the VDH and will provide additional information soon. Any testing provided by PCPS is voluntary and requires parental consent.

The VDH recommends that anyone who has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 get tested on Day five (5) regardless of vaccine status or whether displaying symptoms or not.

Vaccine Documentation

When PCPS moves through the process of contact tracing, they will ask if your child is vaccinated and/or boosted. It is legal for us to ask for this information and you are not obligated to provide it. However, sharing the vaccination status does help determine an accurate quarantine period if exposure has occurred. This information will be treated confidentiality by all staff.

Finally, we wish each one of you a very Happy New Year. As we look to 2022, we look forward with hope and optimism. We know that COVID-19 will continue to challenge us; however, we will continue to adapt, overcome, and move forward together. Thank you in advance for all you will do to help us keep your child and others safe and engaged in learning!

Wishing you all the best,

Dr. Fox and PCPS