



Northampton County Public Schools

2022-2023 Return to Learn Plan #ReadyTogether

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Northampton County Public Schools Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

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 Northampton County Public Schools (NCPS) 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 Ms. Paige K. Ford, Coordinator of Grants at pford@ncpsk12.com.

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

- The plan is posted on the NCPS Division website and available at <https://sites.google.com/ncpsk12.com/arpesseriii/home> along with a Spanish translation.
- In addition, the plan may be orally translated for any parents in need of this service. If you are in need of this support, please contact Ms. Paige K. Ford, Coordinator of Grants, at pford@ncpsk12.com to request translation; and
- 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 Alana Walmsley at awalmsley@ncpsk12.com



Opportunity for Public Comment

NCPS Families, NCPS Staff, and
Northampton County Community
Members:

Anyone who would like to comment
on the NCPS School Opening Plan may
elect to provide their input via written
letter **or** email to Mrs. Karen Pitt, Clerk
of the Board, @ kpitt@ncpsk12.com
before the public comment portion of
the regular School Board meeting on
November 10, 2022.

Public Comment and Periodic Review

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, NCPS is seeking public input and will take such input into account as described below.

The last public comment was held on May 26, 2022. Stakeholder surveys are made available at t.ly/VZPI.

A portion of the regular School Board meeting on November 10, 2022 will be dedicated to taking public comment on this plan.

All comments submitted will be thoroughly reviewed and incorporated into the plan as appropriate.

This plan will be reviewed at least every six months by the School Board. Public comment is requested and will be taken into consideration.

Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), NCPS 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 NCPS 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.

Introduction

This document is intended to communicate specific components of the Northampton County Public Schools (NCPS) plan and preparations for opening schools in fall 2022. Information reflects the needs and concerns of families and staff while maintaining priorities for health, safety, robust instruction, and support services.

As COVID-19 may continue to present a public health risk to Virginians, NCPS will implement strong health, safety, and social distancing precautions, when possible, to reduce transmission, minimize risk to students and staff, and promote community health and well-being. NCPS will follow all CDC guidance for schools except when to be more strict than the current guideline would provide extra safety to our students and staff.

We will continue to implement the recommendations included in the guidelines we receive from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The division-wide transmission mitigation plan will adapt as the statewide regulations and restrictions evolve, but we will consistently implement appropriate safety strategies to include disinfection cleaning, classroom and building ventilation, social distancing as appropriate, encouraging the use of masks, and appropriate hygiene.

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the opening of our schools where employees, students, and families feel safe. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

Guiding Principles for the Opening of Schools

NCPS has identified the following principles to guide all planning for school openings:

- Ensure safe learning and working environments for students and staff.
- Implement measures and protocols to ensure adherence to health guidelines.
- Ensure all students receive instruction that meets state and federal standards and have the necessary supports for success, including:
 - Access to technology and Internet connectivity.
 - Social-emotional wellness and health supports; and
 - Additional support to meet needs of special populations.
- Provide training and support necessary for staff to prepare for a successful opening.
- Provide proactive, clear communication (with translation in native languages) and support to all families and staff.

NCPS School Schedule, Instructional Program and Athletics

- The school board recently approved the school calendar for the upcoming year, which includes a first teaching day of Sept. 6, 2022.
- The plan is to offer in-person learning five days per week, using a traditional school day, for all students.
- In order to control traffic and ensure staff and student safety, **all parents and visitors must check in at the front office upon entering the school building. In addition, parents may only go to the office.** They will not be permitted to walk their children to classrooms.
- NCPS will provide families the option for an online instructional program available via application process with certain eligibility criteria in place. To be eligible for participation in the NCPS Virtual Virginia program, families must demonstrate a health concern, academic success in prior years, reliable internet connectivity, and consistent regular attendance.
- **An application must be submitted in advance of each semester to be eligible for enrollment in Virtual Virginia. Applications for the spring semester are due by November 30th. Those students currently enrolled in Virtual Virginia must reapply in advance of each upcoming semester.**
- Our goal is to be able to operate using a schedule as we did prior to the pandemic, including athletics scheduled on a regular season and extracurricular activities and programs fully resumed in a normal operating capacity. For example, there will be sports practices and games scheduled starting at the beginning of the school year.

Division Communication

Multi-faceted communication strategies will allow the division to attain its goal to include stakeholders' input and to reinforce trust and confidence in NCPS. Family and staff survey data will be used to inform the development and refinement of opening plans impacting schools. Division communication strategies are designed to engage all stakeholders through ongoing and up-to-date information about the decision-making process and opening plans.

These strategies include:

- Clear and straightforward information to ease understanding about options, decisions, and timelines for fall;
- Regular 'Superintendent Updates' posted to the website, mailed home, and/or sent home with students;
- Regularly updated FAQs posted to the Division website;
- Announcements provided to local newspapers;
- Webpage Links provided to informational resources;
- Direct communication via mailings, email, and/or video messages;
- Website, Android and Apple apps, and social media postings to include Facebook and Twitter;
- Translation of written communication into native languages;
- Collaboration with stakeholder groups, community organizations, faith-based organizations, and businesses to help get the message to families and staff.

Division Communication Continued:

- Newsletters from building administrators providing updates, building procedures, and expectations;
- Automated Robo calls;
- ClassTag app;
- Email;
- Information and input gathered from staff and families via surveys to inform decision making
- Faculty meetings to provide staff with updates;
- Door signs communicating expectations;
- Professional development and training; and
- During Open House and the first day of school, information updates will be shared as applicable.

External Conditions

NCPS will continue to monitor guidance issued by the Governor, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Education, and Centers for Disease Control and will adjust this plan accordingly to comply with any changes.

NCPS decisions regarding the need to go to virtual instruction for a day or more will be made by the Superintendent in collaboration with the local health department. Currently, in such instances, divisions are allowed ten days of virtual instruction. Any additional days must be approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

NCPS and VDOE Updates

- **It is optional for students, staff, and all individuals who enter school buildings or the Central Office wear masks while indoors. Wearing masks while indoor NCPS buildings is highly encouraged especially during high transmission periods.**
- All NCPS staff have been afforded the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The VDOE provides the latest news and regular updates pertaining to COVID-19 and Virginia public schools. This information can be located on their website at https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19.shtml. Information highlights include school reopening FAQs, State Snapshot, and health resources. Information is also available in Spanish.
- Please check both the NCPS and VDOE websites frequently for additional updates regarding issues impacting schools.

Continuity of Instruction

Continuity of Instruction is a top priority for NCPS.

Currently, divisions are allowed ten days of virtual instruction. Any additional days must be approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

Virtual Instruction

- For students with a disability, please contact Ms. Alana Walmsley at (757) 678-5151 ext 2401 to determine if accommodations to the application process are needed.
- For students requiring homebound instruction for medical reasons, please contact Brittany Annon at (757) 678-5151 ext 4470 to determine if accommodations to the application process are needed.
- Students participating virtually will be provided school breakfast and lunch (pick-up schedules will be established to accommodate working parents) upon request. Contact the school cafeteria manager.
- In addition, virtual students may participate in any NCPS extracurricular activities. For example, they may participate in sports, cheerleading, Odyssey of the Mind, and/or the Robotics Team to name a few. *NOTE: Only students enrolled in NCPS and attending either in-person or virtually may participate in extracurricular activities.*
- Elementary and middle school curriculum includes instruction in language arts, mathematics, science social studies, science, health and physical education, etc.
- High school curriculum will vary based on course enrollment, with students having the opportunity to access core and elective courses necessary to fulfill graduation requirements.

Technology

- All 7th-12th graders will have a mobile device issued to them.
- 3rd-6th grade classrooms will have computer carts to facilitate instruction. This will prevent our elementary students from having to transport devices between home and school. 1-to-1 devices currently held by 3rd -6th graders will remain at home to support extended school day learning.
- PK-2 students will have devices that will remain in the classroom for use during the school day. Onetab devices will be distributed to all PK-2 classrooms. Instructional learning activities geared toward Literacy and Math will be preloaded on each device.
- Professional development for teachers and other instructional staff will be provided as needed throughout the school year. Professional development will also be provided on supporting digital learning in the home.
- Skills needed to design and execute effective blended learning lessons will be taught. Digital citizenship and online safety lessons will also be taught.

Technology

- Hotspots may be available to NCPS students and staff. Specific information will be provided by the Department of Instructional Technology.
- Technology request forms (for hotspots) are linked below:
[NCPS Technology Letter and Form](#)
- Technical support will continue to be made available to all parents and families.
- NCPS will increase accessibility through extensions of internet connectivity to the edge of each school parking lot.

Health and Safety Measures

- Physical distancing will be maintained on school buses *as much as is practical*.
- Bus monitors will be in place on each bus as much as practical. Parents must accompany their child(ren) to the bus stop and remain with them until they board the bus.
- Students who feel sick are encouraged to stay home. Parents of students should notify the school of the child's absence.

Health and Safety Measures

On an as needed basis, and with physical distance whenever possible, NCPS administration will provide guidelines for the following:

- Parent drop-off protocols,
- Entry protocols to the school for staff, students, parents/guardians, and other visitors,
- The start and end time for school days,
- How classes are scheduled,
- Restrict large gatherings, such as recess and lunch breaks on an as needed basis,
- Restroom usage scheduled, if necessary,
- Placement of signage regarding safety and movement in the building,
- Movement in hallways limited whenever necessary,
- Use of auxiliary spaces limited with closure of congregate areas if the need arises,
- The possible configuration of furniture and equipment to ensure that physical distancing is in place,
- Hygiene and cleaning protocols (hourly hand washing breaks for staff and students), and
- Protocols for ill students reporting to the school clinic for possible pick-up.

Health and Safety Measures

- NCPS will provide guidelines as to what happens when a staff or student gets sick at school.
- There may be a reorganization of some rooms and possible removal of some furniture to allow for more physical space.
- Students may cohort by class when possible.
- Students are encouraged to have their own supplies when possible to avoid transmitting germs.
- When sharing of equipment or supplies is required, the equipment should be cleaned between uses.

- Schools may discourage large gatherings such as assemblies when and if necessary.
- Closure of school cafeteria, media center/library, computer labs, and auditorium/gym may be in place but only when or if the necessity arises.
- NCPS will communicate current VDH and CDC guidelines to all stakeholders and adhere to those requirements.

Health

- School nurses or clinic health aides will continue to use COVID-19 Screening Flow Chart to clinically assess students for COVID-19 symptoms. The assessment will determine whether students are able to remain in school or be sent home. School nurses will contact parents or guardians immediately if students meet criteria for being sent home. Students will remain in the designated waiting area until their parents or guardians arrive.
- NCPS nurses will be upholding regular health protocols and procedures for medical needs unrelated to COVID-19 throughout the school year. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other potential contagious illnesses, an area may be designated in each school monitored by a health aid. These monitoring individuals will use standard and transmission-based precautions when caring for individuals who do not feel well.
- Designated areas will provide a safe space for individuals with symptoms of illness to stay until picked up. The school clinic will remain intact for routine well care such as daily medications and health procedures unrelated to illness.
- Cleaning and disinfection measures will ensure the physical spaces, equipment, and materials students and staff come into contact with remain safe. Daily sanitizing will be implemented for high touch areas (doorknobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) with a medical grade sanitizing solution. Restrooms will be monitored and cleaned more frequently throughout the day.

Health

- As a precaution, employees are encouraged to disinfect their own personal workspace throughout the day giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces.
- Cleaning sprays and wipes are available to clean and disinfect regularly touched objects.
- The NCPS Custodial Team will clean work and learning spaces at specifically designated cleaning times.
- Students and staff will adhere to a regular handwashing schedule. NCPS hand washing guidelines indicate that students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; and before eating. Breaks will be provided for hand washing. If soap and water are not readily available, sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol will be provided.
- Conference rooms and congregate areas such as the cafeteria, library and gym may be closed if the need arises. Break rooms and staff lounges may also be closed if it becomes necessary.
- If it becomes necessary, schools will post signage indicating restrictions and limitations in place.

School & Day Care Minimum Immunization Requirements

School entrance physicals and immunization **requirements for admission to school have changed as of July 1, 2021** for the 2021-2022 school year and all following school years.

Effective July 1, 2021, students in grades 7 and 12 will require Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY). Students in Kindergarten will require 2 doses of Hepatitis A on their shot record. 7th grade boys now also have the option to receive HPV.

The *Code of Virginia* requires that children receive a comprehensive physical examination within 12 months prior to the start of school and be adequately immunized before entering public kindergarten or elementary school. Other required immunizations include Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for girls and boys entering seventh grade; and a Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Tdap) booster for entry into seventh grade. Seventh and Twelfth grade students also need a Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY).

Resources are available for families of uninsured and underinsured children or those impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The VDH, Vaccines for Children (VFC) map indicates participating providers for immunizations by region. Parents may contact local clinics directly for information and hours of service. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/vvfc/locatevvfcprovider/>

The Virginia Community Healthcare Association works with a statewide network of clinics that bill for public and some private insurance. Many clinics provide a sliding scale for those without insurance and offer free immunizations in partnership with the VDH. <https://vacommunityhealth.org/about-the-association/about-chcs/locations/>

The Virginia Association of Free Clinics are independent, nonprofit, volunteer-driven and community-based organizations. Each clinic sets its own eligibility requirements and guidelines, and all must be contacted directly for assistance. <https://www.vafreeclinics.org/clinics-in-virginia>

For further information, please call the Division of Immunization at 1-800-568-1929 (in-state only) or 804-864-8055.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

As always, NCPS will take the steps necessary to protect student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This includes the following:

- Do not display or make public a student's personally identifiable information, including full names.
- Utilize platform controls to minimize potential disruptions to sessions.
- Providers should enable control settings to limit the ability of others to join the online session and to control who is able to speak at what time.

Special Populations: Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

School administrators and teachers must consider and enable the full participation and inclusion of students with disabilities. In circumstances in which students who require specialized support and services are not able to follow guidelines and require support and adaptation to public health measures, plans must be developed to ensure their inclusion. In the event at-home learning is required and/or in-school classes are suspended or canceled:

- School staff will continue to offer at-home learning for all students in an Early Childhood Special Education program and students in Grades K through 12, including those who require specialized support and services.
- Teachers and other staff (e.g., speech language pathologists, social workers, family school liaison staff, teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired etc.) will provide specialized supports and services to children and students, including those with disabilities in consultation with families in order to support learning outcomes at home, while avoiding direct contact to protect children, students and staff health.
- Teachers will be responsible to ensure that individual support plans/individual program plans are implemented, monitored, and evaluated for children and students who may need specialized support and services.

Special Populations: Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

- Teachers will consult with parents through their chosen communication methods, such as email, phone, and/or other digital modes, to develop Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) for the 2022-23 school year.
- Teachers will meet with parents (and, when appropriate, with the student) to discuss IEPs regularly. Teachers will provide updated information and review the effectiveness of the identified supports, strategies, and services. This process allows for the timely and appropriate revision of IEP plans, along with the identification of any new supports, strategies, or services to be provided.
- Teachers are responsible for assessing and reporting on a child's/student's progress and progress for all students (including IEP goal progress) will be provided in writing to parents every 9 weeks or as designated by the annual school calendar and IEP.
- School administrative teams have the flexibility to identify educational assistants that are needed to support an educational program for a particular student, and to decide if a particular educational assistant is needed to deliver a particular education program, while the student is learning at home.

Students with Disabilities

- Students with disabilities will continue to receive special education services in accordance with their Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Specialized instruction will be provided face to face using an inclusion model for students with disabilities who typically receive instruction on grade level standards of learning. In this setting, Special Education teachers will push into grade level classrooms and provide face-to-face instruction on all instructional days.
- Students with disabilities who require resource services will also receive face-to-face instruction with limited group sizes to the extent possible. Students with disabilities receiving services virtually will have scheduled days and times to meet with special education providers.
- Related services will be available both virtually and face-to-face for all students with disabilities.

Students with Disabilities

- Early Childhood Special Education Services will be offered at both Elementary Schools in a self-contained special education setting for children ages 2-3. Pre-K students who receive early childhood special education services will receive services in both the inclusion and special education settings depending on program enrollment and class size maximums.
- For families that are found eligible for 100% virtual instruction, accessibility accommodations will be made available in accordance with the student's IEP and instructional platform capabilities. In addition, students will have scheduled access to an assigned special education teacher/case manager in order to provide specialized instruction on a weekly basis. The final decision will be made by the IEP team.
- Regardless of the format of instruction, families should expect quarterly progress reports that document progress towards IEP goals. In addition, IEP amendments will be created with parental input and consent, to address specialized instruction delivery models during the phased reopening.
- NCPS will continue to offer online IEP and eligibility meetings to facilitate social distancing. When necessary, meetings may be conducted in a virtual format.

Gifted Services

- Face-to-face instructional services resume five days per week beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students in grades K-6 will receive services daily/weekly in a pull out resource model.
- Gifted Resource classes and advanced courses of study will be available during face-to-face instruction in grades 7-8.
- For students found eligible for virtual instruction, gifted services will still be provided.
- Honors classes, Advanced Placement courses, and Dual Enrollment coursework will be available in-person and/or virtually for eligible high school students.

Social and Emotional Learning and Mental Health Supports

- NCPS will continue to conduct universal screening assessments of all students PreK-12 in the area of social emotional development at least twice annually. Screening results will help schools determine which students require additional support.
- Students in grades K-8 will receive core instruction through the implementation of the following Social Emotional Learning Curriculum: AI's Pals (PreK) and Second Step (PreK-8) during designated learning blocks in the master schedule.
- NCPS utilized the MindWise SOS program for students in Grades 9-12 in the 2021-2022 school year as part of increased division prevention efforts and campaigns.
- Grade level data teams will meet routinely to match appropriate interventions based on student need.

Social and Emotional Learning and Mental Health Supports

- A division resource map is available for the selection of interventions and supports and teams will regularly monitor student progress and outcomes through the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports process.
- For students requiring intensive supports, Check In Check Out, student mentoring, small group counseling, individual counseling, functional behavior assessments, behavior intervention plans and referrals for community-based services (including therapeutic day treatment) are available.
- Division social workers, school psychologists, counselors, and behavior specialists are also on staff to provide mental health supports. NCPS will continue to participate with both the local FAPT and CPMT teams to ensure families have access to community-based resources as needed.

Human Resources

One goal of the NCPS Opening Schools Plan is to ensure that all staff – instructional, clinical, operational, and administrative – have the resources to feel safe and comfortable returning to the workplace.

Elements of this support model include the following:

Work and Leave Options

Provide updated resources and procedures, including: possible telework guidance; support accessing employee leave options, and other related benefits; and use of the CDC health inventory, as it pertains to employees who may need an accommodation.

Personal Protective Equipment

Ensure staff have the necessary personal protective resources, as appropriate for their risk exposure, such as masks, gloves, gowns, face shields, etc.

Health and Wellness

Provide staff with support and resources to address any personal health and wellness needs.

Professional Development

Provide staff with the information, guidance, and professional learning necessary to support virtual instructional practices, health, and safety.

Human Resources

Employee Screening and Protocols

An employee who is feeling unwell should contact their supervisor and submit their absence in Frontline.

Human Resources

Maintenance of Healthy Environments

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.
- The frequency of cleaning and disinfection will be substantially increased beyond the division's protocol prior to the pandemic.
- The division has ensured that it has an adequate amount of cleaning supplies and materials.
- Additional hand sanitizer dispensers have been incorporated into each school facility.

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.

Water Systems

- The division has installed touchless bottle fillers in each school.
- The division has a Maintenance/Safety/Water Specialist on staff.
- The division continues to operate the water systems within each facility during the school closure.
- The division has submitted water samples for analysis with satisfactory results.
- Water fountains will be closed during Phase III.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

The division will implement protections for [staff and children at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#), including additional mitigation and protective measures, as deemed necessary by physicians' orders.

Facilities

- Electrostatic disinfectant sprayers have been purchased along with the necessary disinfectants.
- Hand sanitizer will be located in each office and in every classroom.
- Training will be provided for all staff on proper cleaning protocols and storage of cleaning chemicals and supplies.
- Classrooms will be regularly sanitized with electrostatic disinfectant and other cleaning materials.
- KES had an upgraded HVAC system installed the summer of 2021. The OES HVAC system was updated in the summer of 2022.
- NHS has REME HALO® in-duct air purifiers installed in the gymnasium, clinic, and main office.

Facilities

- Touchless water coolers are located in each school for hands-free water bottle filling.
- Regular cleaning schedules have been created for each building.
- Existing HVAC systems in all buildings have been serviced with filters changed. Regular preventative maintenance will be performed.
- Current filters meet state mandates.
- The replacement of some HVAC systems began in the summer of 2021 and work will continue into subsequent years.
- Each administrator established clear controls for entering, departing and moving within schools.

Food Services Updates

- NCPS will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision, so Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at no charge to all students.
- Students in grades PreK-12 will receive breakfast using the “Grab & Go” model upon entering school each morning.
- All students will eat breakfast in their classrooms to avoid large gatherings in hallways and the cafeteria at one time. Desks will be sanitized before and after meals.
- Students in grades K -12 will eat lunch in the cafeteria and schools may incorporate staggered scheduling to limit the number of students in the cafeteria at any given time as needed.
- The cafeteria will resume a-la-carte sale of food items.

Food Service Updates

- NCPS will continue to distribute meals on all instructional days.
- Students participating virtually will be provided school breakfast and lunch (pick-up schedules will be established to accommodate working parents) upon request. Contact the school cafeteria manager.
- It is encouraged but not required that cafeteria staff wear face coverings during food service.
- A list of students with food allergies will be provided by the school nurse to teachers and staff to help prevent students and staff coming into contact with unsafe foods.
- No sharing or trading of any food items will be permitted in classrooms or the cafeteria.

Bus Transportation

- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses.
- Students will be assigned a bus number according to their address in PowerSchool.
- Due to limited capacity and safety concerns of route consistency, students may only ride the bus to which they are assigned.
- This means a student will not be permitted to ride a different bus home due to childcare, etc. **There will be absolutely no exceptions.**
- **Each bus will have a designated bus monitor.** Bus monitors will supervise student behavior.

Bus Transportation

- **Face coverings are encouraged but not required for students, bus drivers, and bus monitors.**
- All buses will be cleaned following each run. In addition, buses will be cleaned weekly with an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer and other cleaning materials.
- Buses may have designated seating.
- Training has been provided to all staff regarding cleaning, the use of PPE, and safety procedures/protocols regarding COVID-19.

Instructional Practice

In the event of shutdown, all instruction for the affected schools would either be delivered online through enhanced distance learning practices or via instructional packets.

These virtual practices would reflect lessons learned from previous closures and would include expanded digital curriculum resources, as well as additional staff training.

The division's ongoing expansion of technology, connectivity, and blended learning strategies across grade levels and curricular areas will ensure NCPS students are able to access high-quality, rigorous instruction even in the event of a school closure.

The division will continue to document effective virtual learning strategies and provide professional development and family resources in order to prepare for a possible transition to online and remote learning.

Safety Protocols

During a health closure for one or more NCPS sites, no students will be permitted in the affected school building(s) for instruction.

Staff may possibly be allowed access to buildings in the event of a critical need, but only as permitted within health department guidelines. Specific guidance will come from the Office of the Superintendent.

In rare circumstances, when a necessary specialized service cannot be provided remotely, individual students may be permitted into a NCPS facility by appointment and with strict mitigation strategies in place.

Preparing for the Possibility of Future Shutdowns

Changes in public health data could necessitate rapid adjustments to the division's operational approach at any time during the 2022-2023 school year. Students, families, and staff attending in-person with social distancing in NCPS buildings should be prepared for the potential of building closure on short notice. Families are encouraged to have alternative childcare options in place should the need for school closure arise.

Division leaders will communicate promptly to staff, students, and families in the event that local health conditions or inclement weather warrant school closure or a change in instructional delivery. In the event of closure, NCPS will implement an emergency model of full-time online instruction for all students.

NCPS will regularly communicate and monitor developments with local health department authorities regarding cases, exposures, hospitalizations, and any other relevant metrics that may require a change in school operations. In the event of an elevated number of cases in local health data or in the event of presumed or confirmed cases directly impacting schools or the central office, NCPS will collaborate with authorities to implement all necessary health and safety protocols. This could include short-term closure of one or more NCPS facilities until health officials deem it safe to reopen.