



# King and Queen County Public Schools

HEALTH MITIGATION PLAN

2022-2023 School Year

Approved August 17, 2022

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# Introduction

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The King and Queen County Public Schools (KQPS) division serves its 650 PK-12 students in three buildings: Central High School (7th-12th grade), King and Queen Elementary School (PK-6th grade), and Lawson-Marriott Elementary School (PK-6th grade).

As a school division, student health and safety continue to be our school division's top priority. As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, continuing with the implementation of many layered prevention strategies will provide our students and staff with a safe and healthy learning environment.


King and Queen County Public Schools, in partnership with the CDC, Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and King and Queen Health Department, has determined the following layered prevention strategies be implemented in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases:

- Staying up to date on routine vaccinations
- Improved ventilation (in buildings and on school buses)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Offering Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19 and participating in Test to Stay (TTS) programs

# LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

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The CDC COVID-19 Dashboard informs the level of community disease transmission across our division. This information is considered as we create our Return to Learn Plan, as is input from the Virginia Department of Health and our local Tri Rivers Health Department.



### COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county. Data updated weekly.


Select a Location (all fields required)

Virginia

King and Queen County

Go

[< Start Over](#)

 **Medium**

In **King and Queen County, Virginia**, community level is **Medium**.

- If you are [at high risk for severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms

Source:  
CDC COVID-19 Dashboard  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>  
Date Retrieved: July 12, 2022

Level of Community Disease Transmission will be reviewed and re-evaluated consistently. Data and transmission level retrieved from the CDC Covid-19 Community Levels page.

# COMMUNICATION

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Frequent communication between families, students, teachers, and staff continues to be crucial to ensure all stakeholders are aware of any school-based COVID-19 outbreaks, vaccination updates, and other information relating to the health and safety of our students. Below are communication channels that will be used to maximize communication within the King and Queen community.

## **Health Safety Agreement**

All families will be required to complete the Student Health Safety Agreement at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year to assure they understand their obligations in maintaining a safe environment while at school. This form includes the obligation to complete a daily self-check via an instrument provided by the CDC prior to coming to campus.

## **Superintendent and Principal Updates**

The Division Superintendent and school principals will provide email and phone updates to families (through Appegy). It is critical that parents have up-to-date contact information on file at their child's school.

## **Social Media Platforms**

All pertinent information will be posted on the school division website, as well as the division Facebook and Twitter pages.

## **Case Specific Communication**

Each School Nurse and/or School Administrator will continue to contact families of students as situations arise concerning their child's health and well-being.

# PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

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## Community Response Efforts

KQPS will work with the King and Queen Health Department to assist in community response efforts.

King and Queen Health Department  
Kimberly Carlton, RN  
Public Health Nurse Supervisor  
PO Box 8, 167 Courthouse Landing Road  
King and Queen Courthouse, VA 23085  
(804) 785-6154

## Student Health Services

School nurses will maintain their “normal” health services in schools as well as be on alert for symptoms that may indicate a COVID-19 or other infectious disease. A separate room from the regular clinic will be designated at each school and will be used to separate individuals displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or other infectious disease. This Nurse Annex area will have ventilation that is separate from other rooms and have an exterior window for ventilation, if needed. When caring for the sick, school nurses will initiate the standard and transmission-based precautions as detailed by the CDC.

If a child is showing signs of COVID-19 (classroom, hallway, bus, etc.), the school nurse will be called and will escort the child to the Nurse Annex area. The school nurse will evaluate the child and notify the parent. The family will be offered an opportunity to participate in the Test to Stay program. KQPS will be following the most current guidance related to the VDH [Test to Stay Program](#).

All non-COVID related clinic visits will occur following normal procedures. Students who require daily medication distribution will report to the nurse at the scheduled time to receive their medication.

## Student Health Safety Agreement

All KQPS families will be required to review and sign the KQPS Health Safety Agreement prior to the opening of the 2022-2023 school year. Please review the agreement on the next page.

# King and Queen County Student Health Safety Agreement

## 2022-2023 School Year

The health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff is a top priority. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact our community, it is imperative we follow very specific guidelines until the pandemic ends. This document provides guidelines for keeping students safe and reducing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

It is the expectation that the following stakeholders will practice and follow these guidelines consistently for the wellness and safety of our students and staff members:

**For my safety, KQPS will do the following:**

- Maintain a commitment to the rigor of the curriculum, delivering quality instruction and keep interruptions to a minimum
- Initiate steps to mitigate the risk and transmission of all infectious diseases, including implementation of the KQPS Health Mitigation Plan
- Regularly provide updates to students and families
- Respond to student and family concerns and/or questions as they may arise, and;
- Adapt, adjust, or change procedures or policies to adhere to CDC, state, or federal policy/guidelines.

**As a parent/guardian of a KQPS student, I will commit to the following:**

- Complete a daily health screening before allowing my child to load the bus or dropping them off at school
- I will not send my child to school if he/she is sick, regardless of symptoms
- I will keep my child home if his/her temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher
- I will not send my child to school if he/she has been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- I will call my child's school when an absence is necessary and provide a reason for absence
- I am aware my child has the option to participate in the Test to Stay program

**As a student of KQPS, I will commit to the following:**

- Regularly utilize hand washing and hand sanitizing protocol
- Reporting feeling not well to a teacher or school nurse in a timely manner

_____ Student Name	_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian Name	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Date

# PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

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## Adequate Supplies

King & Queen County Public School has obtained a sufficient amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for our nurses, custodial and maintenance personnel, food services personnel, transportation personnel and instructional staff members. These supplies include:

- face masks
- disposable gloves
- disinfectant products
- hand sanitizers
- touchless, infrared thermometers

Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout each building. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer each time they enter and exit the building and the classroom.

Supplies necessary for proper hand hygiene and ensuring all staff and students have the opportunity to maintain cleanliness will be maintained in each school facility.

## Signs and Messaging

KQPS will post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms, etc.) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#))

KQPS will utilize CDC print and digital resources found on the CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.



# PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

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## **Physical Distancing**

Each school facility has been mapped to determine how classrooms and communal spaces must be prepared to ensure physical distancing recommendations.

## **Food/Dining Services**

Students will eat in the cafeteria with their class at their regularly scheduled times. KQPS will provide an option to isolate during the lunch block if CDC/VDH protocol for masking and/or isolation period deems necessary.

## **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are no longer widely required for students, staff, and visitors, except during isolation as specified on page 14 of this document.

# MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND OPERATIONS

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## Daily Health Screenings for Students

Students will be screened at home using the *King and Queen County Student Health Safety Agreement*. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for signing the agreement at the beginning of the school year; the agreement explains and confirms the parent's/guardian's commitment to being responsible for screening his/her child each day before sending him or her to school. If a child is sent to school, the parent/guardian is verifying the health of his or her child.

Each staff member will be on alert for students that appear ill - fever, sick stomach, altered appearance, etc.; these students will be immediately referred to the school nurse.

## Health Screenings for Staff

All staff members should monitor their temperature and look for symptoms of COVID-19 or other infectious diseases on a daily basis at home prior to reporting to work. Staff members should stay home if they are ill, and notify their supervisor as soon as possible if an absence is necessary.

## Hygiene Practices

### Cleaning and Disinfection

Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout each building and on each bus. Students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer each time they enter and exit the building and the classroom. Building cleaning and disinfection will take place each day; traditional methods of cleaning as well as electrostatic sprayers will be used. All high-touch areas (door handles, railings, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times throughout the school day.

**Transportation**

Buses will be disinfected before and after each route has been completed; either to school or from school to home. Each bus driver will receive an electrostatic sprayer to allow him/her to disinfect the bus after each run.

All vehicles transporting students will be stocked with masks for drivers, additional disposable face masks for students, spray disinfectants and hand sanitizer.

**Hand washing**

Students and staff should wash hands regularly throughout the day. Washing for a minimum time of 20 seconds will be encouraged and expected. Hand washing guidance will be provided to all staff and students.

**Bathroom Usage**

If a bathroom exists in a current classroom, the students in that room will be expected to use that particular bathroom. Bathrooms will be disinfected periodically throughout the school day using both traditional methods as well as electrostatic sprayers.

## **Ventilation Systems**

KQPS will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and will increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, if appropriate. KQPS Maintenance Staff will check HVAC systems and ensure filters are routinely changed according to manufacturer standards.

## **Water Systems**

KQPS uses WaterPro to test its water and certify its suitability for drinking and other in-school uses. Water fountains will remain disabled, and possible usage reevaluated once further guidance has been received from the state.

Small water coolers and disposable cups will be in each classroom; teachers may serve water to a student when needed/requested.

## **Athletic/Extracurricular Events**

**KQPS will update and make changes to this portion of the plan based on guidance from VDH.**

## **Gatherings**

For the 2022-2023 school year, King and Queen County Public Schools plans to allow school gatherings. This includes open house, performances, etc. **King and Queen County Public Schools will update and make changes to this portion of the plan based on guidance from VDH.**

## **Field Trips**

Teachers requesting approval for field trips during the 2022-2023 school year must check with the trip destination to determine what COVID protocols are in place for trip attendees.

# PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS

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## When is It Safe to Be Around Others? Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines

Due to the frequent updates and guidance from the Virginia Department of Health and our local health department, King and Queen County Schools plan to follow all current guidance, including isolation and quarantine protocols. We will be in constant communication with each of these organizations, and will frequently view the [Isolation and Quarantine Page](#) of the VDH website.

UPDATED VDH COVID-19 QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION GUIDANCE as of July 15, 2022-

## Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention for Students, Teachers and Staff in Child Care, K-12 Schools, and Day Camp Settings

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) provides the following guidance for children, teachers, and staff in child care, K-12 schools, and camp settings. This revised guidance outlines that quarantine is no longer routinely recommended for asymptomatic individuals after exposure to COVID-19 infected individuals. In general masks are not routinely recommended in these settings, indoors or outdoors, except during isolation as specified below. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or for children under the age of 2.

## Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

- **Symptomatic persons** (regardless of vaccination status) should begin isolation at home and undergo testing as recommended by their healthcare providers. The day symptoms began should be counted as day 0.
- **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:

- o If the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10.
- o 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.
- o Schools with the resources to do so may consider offering rapid testing on-site to symptomatic individuals and/or distributing at-home rapid antigen test kits for testing at home. If a student has become sick at school, arrange for the student to be picked up, while the student waits in a separate isolation room/area

● **For exposed but asymptomatic persons** (regardless of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended for the above settings. These individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.

- o Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person.
- o Masks: Students/staff that attend programming during this time may consider wearing a mask around others indoors until Day 10
- o Testing: Schools may use Test to Stay protocols and VDH testing resources to support this testing.
- o If a student or staff person in this group has ongoing household exposure to a person with COVID-19, VDH recommends students, families and staff consider more frequent testing; please see Test to Stay protocols for more information.

● **If the school or facility is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19** that has been difficult to control or is unusual in size or scope, regional and local epidemiologists may apply professional judgment and recommend traditional quarantine and isolation standards be applied until the situation is stabilized.

For all other infectious diseases, KQPS will continue to follow the most current recommendations from the Virginia School Health Guidelines.

## **Planning for Closure Due to Severe Conditions**

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KQPS will work closely with the Virginia Department of Health to determine if/when school closures are warranted. Should an outbreak occur, and CDC/VDH recommends school closure, KQPS will transition to fully remote learning.

Individual school closures will occur independently of one another, as infection rates across the county may vary at any given time.