

Memo Regarding Return to In-person Learning

Cumberland County Public Schools (CuCPS) has been closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19. According to the latest data available from the Piedmont Health District, COVID-19 cases have decreased in Cumberland for the past 25 days. Therefore, CuCPS plans to return to in-person learning on **Monday, October 19, 2020**, using the hybrid pulsing model.

The hybrid pulsing model divides students into two groups according to geographic location. Students in Group A will attend school one week on Monday through Thursday, and will receive remote learning during week two. Group B students will receive remote learning on week one and come to school Monday through Thursday on week two. All students will work remotely on Fridays, which will allow teachers time to plan, conference with students, or meet with parents. Custodial staff will also use Fridays to clean and sanitize school facilities between groups of students. Schools will notify parents regarding assigned group. In addition, the school day will be shortened, with in-school classes dismissing at 2:00 P.M. This will provide teachers time at the end of the day to check in with remote students, hold office hours, and prepare learning packets.

Students and staff will be required to wear masks, including when riding the bus.

Flexibility for wearing masks may be provided by school officials when social distancing can be maintained. Parents of students who are not able to wear a face-covering for medical reasons must provide their child's school with documentation from a physician.

The school division is making every attempt to keep students safe. Hand sanitizer will be available, social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, school visitation will be limited, extra cleaning and sanitizing will be done, and temperature checks will be conducted. However, if you would prefer to keep your child at home, you may request all remote learning. If you later decide for your child(ren) to return to in-person learning, the school must have at least a week's notice to arrange for transportation.

Upon arrival at school, students will enter schools in staggered shifts to maintain social distancing. Staff members will take temperatures of all staff and students entering the buildings. Students with temperatures higher than 100° F, as well as those exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, will be sent to the clinic for further screening and to await parent pick-up as deemed necessary. In addition to a fever, symptoms of COVID-19 include a new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, runny nose, chills, headache, new muscle aches, vomiting, or diarrhea.

CuCPS is asking parents/guardians to do the following:

1. Screen your children each morning before sending them to school. If children have a fever higher than 100° F or display any of the symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them at home.
2. Be available to pick up your children if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 after they arrive at school.
3. Talk to your children about COVID-19 and the importance of wearing masks and washing hands.

4. Have your child at the bus stop at least 10 minutes early for the first week of school, since pick-up and drop-off times may vary according to the number of students opting to participate in in-person learning.

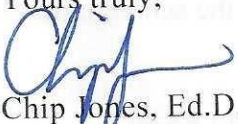
Parents will receive notification letters if the division has confirmed positive student or staff COVID-19 cases in a school. The division will continue to work with the Piedmont Health District to determine if additional students must be sent home to quarantine or if schools need to be closed in the event of an outbreak.

Because school buses will begin transporting students on October 19, 2020, meal distribution for remote students will be changed to Fridays, beginning Friday, October 23, 2020, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Parents may come to any of the three distribution sites to pick up meals. Sites include in front of Cumberland Middle School, at Randolph Fire and Rescue Squad Building, or at Cartersville Rescue Squad Building. Parents also have the option of having meals delivered. Parents requesting meal delivery should contact Mrs. Sandra Raymond at 804-492-4212 at least one day in advance.

I am looking forward to having students back in our schools. We will continue to monitor health data and implement safety measures recommended by the Virginia Health Department. I am counting on you to help schools stay open by keeping your children home if they are sick and by talking to your children about wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and washing hands.

I really appreciate all the support that the school division has received from parents. It has been outstanding!

Yours truly,


Chip Jones, Ed.D.
Superintendent