



Cumberland County Public Schools

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

2022-2023

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 any scheduled virtual meetings regarding local health trends. Following VDH guidelines, the division continues to quarantine individuals who contract COVID-19. The division plans to hold vaccination clinics for staff members as well as a clinic for eligible students if levels rise to levels indicating the need for clinics. Reports regarding COVID-19 cases of staff members are reported as required by VDOE and CDC guidelines as well as student outbreaks. Training for staff, students, and parents regarding COVID-19 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 following the return to full in-person instruction. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned can be found 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. In compliance with *CHRISTOPHER SEASMAN, et al., Plaintiffs, v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, et al., Defendants*, the division will comply with reasonable requests for ensuring the safety of students who have specific health issues.

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

- Optional Masking.
In compliance with the Governor's order, the wearing of masks will be optional. Posters demonstrating the correct way to wear masks will be posted around school. Masks will be available as needed.
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.
Schools in Virginia are now required to provide opportunities to attend school 5-days a week school year, which limits the ability to social distance. Students will be encouraged to social distance whenever possible. Athletic activities will be conducted as sanctioned by the Governor's Office and the Virginia High School League. Schools may modify lunch schedules and eating places to maximize social distancing as deemed necessary, 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. 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 Supervisor of Custodial Services 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 cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Individual bottles of water will also be available for consumption as needed and/or students will be provided with filling stations for individual water bottles. 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.

- Isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments guidelines.

Students and parents will be encouraged to report cases of COVID-19 to school administrators. CuCPS will follow guidelines from the Piedmont Health District/CDC regarding quarantining. Positive COVID-19 cases will be isolated for 0-5 days and may return to school on day six as long as the person is fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine and has no symptoms. Cases will be encouraged to wear a mask for days 6-10. Students who display symptoms of COVID-19 at school may be isolated and parents will be called to pick up their children.

In keeping with updated CDC guidelines, CuCPS is no longer contact tracing. Guidelines issued by the VDH will be followed regarding household contacts.

- Diagnostic and screening testing.

Parents will be asked to follow the COVID-19 Screening Checklist (which is found on the school website) at home each day before sending their 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 may be asked to return home. The division will provide at-home COVID tests to students and staff (as long as the supply lasts) to test for COVID-19.

- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

CuCPS continues to host vaccination clinics for staff, students, and parents if COVID-19 levels rise to an unacceptable level.

- 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.

- 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 2022-2023 and for the 2023-2024 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 may offer a remote option through Virtual Virginia courses for students whereby students will continue to practice distance learning if this is deemed the best method of instruction for the student. Participation in virtual learning will be considered on a case-by-case basis. 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 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. CuCPS also reports suspected outbreaks as required by regulations outlined by the Piedmont Health District. Plans and procedures regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be updated as transmission levels rise or CDC guidelines are changed.

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)
 Cumberland Middle School—Mr. Andrew Hoyt (ahoyt@cucps.k12.va.us)
 Cumberland High School—Mr. Eugene Williams (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, 434-392-3984

 Ms. Stephanie Martin, Public Health Investigator,
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. COVID-19 outbreaks for students will be reported to the Piedmont Health District using the online portal or other method as preferred by the VDH. Staff outbreaks in various locations will be reported to the Department of Labor and Industry and/or the VDH as directed.

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 through Virtual Virginia for vulnerable learners as deemed necessary to meet individual needs to the greatest extent possible.
- Provide for an additional day of services from the contracted school psychologist as long as funds are available.
- Provide training for staff members on social/emotional learning as deemed appropriate.
- 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/1aauc>. A Survey Monkey survey will be available for parents or other stakeholders who wish to comment-- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYK2CP3>
2. The Plan will be presented for final review at the June 2023 meeting of the Cumberland School Board, with an opportunity for additional public comment.
3. A copy of the Plan was made available at the School Board Office and an opportunity for public comment.

All comments received were reviewed and discussed by the Administrative Council and/or the District Leadership Team. 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/1aauC>.
- 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 test for COVID-19. If temperature is over 100 degrees, you should stay home.

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: _____