

## Email to All Families 1/20/22

Dear PCPS families,

This email contains important information regarding PCPS COVID-19 mitigation procedures. PCPS will continue to recommend and promote all COVID-19 mitigations guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### Executive Order Number Two

On January 18, 2022 the Poquoson City School Board voted to align the PCPS COVID-19 mitigation plan with Executive Order Number Two issued by Governor Youngkin on January 15, 2022. Executive Order Two will take effect on **January 24, 2022**. Details of the order are below:

- The State Health Commissioner shall terminate Order of Public Health Emergency Order Ten (2021).
- The parents of any child enrolled in an elementary or secondary school or a school-based early childcare and educational program may elect for their children not to be subject to any mask mandate in effect at the child's school or educational program.
- No parent electing that a mask mandate should not apply to his or her child shall be required to provide a reason or make any certification concerning their child's health or education.
- A child whose parent has elected that he or she is not subject to a mask mandate should not be required to wear a mask under any policy implemented by a teacher, school, school district, the Department of Education, or any other state authority.
- The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall rescind the Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Virginia PreK-12 Schools, issued January 14, 2021, and updated October 14, 2021, and issue new guidance for COVID-19 Prevention consistent with this Order.
- School districts should marshal any resources available to improve inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement and upgrades of equipment to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification, fans, control systems and window and door repair.

Beginning January 24, 2022, PCPS will no longer require that students, staff, and visitors wear masks while on school property. However, the federal mask requirement for public transportation is still in place; therefore, **anyone riding a school bus will be required to wear a mask when embarking, disembarking, and for the duration of the journey.**

### Suspension of Contact Tracing

Beginning January 19, 2022, PCPS employees are no longer conducting COVID-19 contact tracing or engaging in the oversight of the quarantine of any individual who is exposed to COVID-19. Contact tracing has been the responsibility of the local health department and the

Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Due to staff shortages, VDH has struggled to provide timely notification to people identified as close contacts which makes the efforts ineffective. In PCPS, we have found little correlation between quarantine and the number of later identified positive COVID-19 cases.

### **Isolation**

Isolation is the separation of those individuals who have confirmed or suspected cases of COVID from others, to prevent the transmission of the virus. Isolation recommendations differ depending on the presence of symptoms.

PCPS will continue to keep track of staff and students who have confirmed cases of COVID to prevent the transmission of the virus and **will require all COVID-19 positive individuals to isolate in accordance with the CDC guidelines in place.** To report positive COVID-19 cases, please continue to contact your child's school.

Isolation recommendations differ depending on the presence of symptoms. Students, teachers and staff who test positive but have **no** symptoms:

- Isolate for at least 5 days and if there are still no symptoms, then the individual may end isolation and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days.
- Individuals who cannot wear a mask for the additional 5 days will need to isolate for a full 10 days.
- If symptoms develop, isolation count starts over (resetting the 5 day clock).

Students, teachers, and staff who test positive **and** have symptoms:

- Isolate for 5 days. If symptoms are no longer present or symptoms are resolving after 5 days (fever free for 24 hours without the use of Motrin or Tylenol), then the individual may end isolation and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days.
- If symptoms persist more than 5 days, wait until symptom free for 24 hours.

### **Quarantine**

PCPS will continue to recommend all CDC and VDH guidelines for quarantine:

- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a close contact, in accordance with the attached document "Revised K12 Quarantine & Isolation Guidance from CDC".
- Students, teachers and staff **do not need to quarantine** after a close contact if they are fully vaccinated and boosted if age 18 or older and eligible for a booster, fully vaccinated ages 5-17, or have had COVID in the last 90 days (with a confirmed viral test).
- Students age 5-17 do not need a booster to be considered fully vaccinated regardless of age of vaccine. Students who are considered fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after a close contact.

### **Testing**

PCPS will continue to implement outlined mitigation strategies and offer diagnostic COVID-19 testing as a resource for staff and students. All testing is based on the availability of COVID-19 tests. All households are able to order one set of four free at-home COVID-19 tests. For these free COVID-19 testing kits, use the following link: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>. Additionally, a community COVID-19 testing center has opened at 13785 Warwick Boulevard, in Newport News. This testing center operates by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, [CLICK HERE](#).

### **RUVNA**

PCPS will continue to use the morning RUVNA texts to conduct daily health screenings for students and staff. Please respond to the RUVNA text prior to your child's arrival to school to help expedite the morning arrival process.

### **Attending School Virtually**

If your child cannot attend school due to COVID-19 or any other illness, but they are well enough to complete work from home, they will be marked "Present Virtual" if they engage with the instruction. Engagement with the instruction may look different at different levels or in different courses, and may include one or more of the following:

- Completion of any packets sent home at the primary school level
- Logging into Canvas to access assignments or choice boards through teachers' Canvas pages
- Attending Google Meets for instruction that is live-streamed

Classroom teachers will provide students with expectations for completing work while learning from home.

For additional COVID-19 information and resources, please contact Emily Forbes at 757-868-3050 ext 2147 or [Emily.forbes@poquoson.k12.va.us](mailto:Emily.forbes@poquoson.k12.va.us).

Please see the below links for more information:

[CDC - Overview of COVID-19 Quarantine for K-12 Schools](#)

[CDC - What You Should Know About COVID-19 Testing In Schools](#)

[VDH - When to End Isolation or Quarantine](#)