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# CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS COVID RESPONSE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7/6/20



## MITIGATION MEASURES

- Protective Barriers & Face Coverings
- Ventilation
- Cleaning
- Health & Hygiene
- Policies/Procedures & Containment Strategies

## PROTECTIVE BARRIERS & FACE COVERINGS

- Plexiglass dividers are being provided for reception areas and other spaces where clear barriers are appropriate mitigation measures
- Students and staff must wear face coverings or masks, with exceptions only for those students or staff for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical considerations.
  - For personal comfort, fiscal responsibility & environmental reasons, CCS will request that students and staff provide their own face coverings/masks; however, CCS will have masks available
  - CCS will provide face shields for any students or staff who cannot wear a mask or needs view of the face/mouth
    - CCS has the capability to make face shields in various sizes as needed to augment purchased shields

# VENTILATION

Ventilation systems are managed & maintained under contract with the City. In response to COVID, City Facilities Maintenance is implementing the following mitigation measures:

- Upgraded filters from MERV 7 to MERV 14 to trap more particulates that could carry the virus (MERV = Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value, a system used to evaluate the efficiency of air filters based on how effective it is at catching particles of varying sizes)
  - Higher MERV rating = higher air filtration capabilities
- Systems will be set to increase outside air to the maximum amount that still allows for the system to treat/condition the air
- A new program to routinely sanitize air handlers is being incorporated in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

## CLEANING

- The cleaning solution system CCS has in all buildings uses hospital grade virucidal solutions that are registered on *EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS- CoV-s (COVID -19)*
  - Each classroom will be stocked with microfiber cloths and a spray bottle of the disinfecting surface cleaner, and will be given instructions for attending to high-touch areas (light switches, door knobs, desktops)
- Screen wipes will be provided at touch screens
- Sanitizing charging carts ordered for each school for Chromebooks and other devices
- CCS has invested in new disinfecting equipment, both foggers and electrostatic sprayers, to enable more rapid and comprehensive disinfection of spaces
- New cleaning protocols and checklists are being developed with CCS custodial staff

## HEALTH & HYGIENE

- Hand sanitizer for each classroom
  - Gallon jug with pump ordered for all classrooms
  
- Touchless thermometers provided for all schools
  
- CDC & VDH guidance will be followed in conjunction with data-driven best practices for:
  - Health screenings
  - Quarantine practices
  - Provision of medical grade PPE to appropriate staff
  
- Abundant signage and other routine communications will reinforce:
  - Social distancing
  - Hand washing
  - Face coverings
  - Self screening & self quarantine

## POLICIES/PROCEDURES & CONTAINMENT STRATEGIES

- Students will be scheduled in small class sizes to promote social distancing
  - Class sizes determined by each class space
- Furniture will be arranged to maintain social distancing
- Traffic patterns outside & inside buildings are being restructured to minimize contact
  - Students will not congregate in common spaces (meals will be in classrooms)
    - Appropriate waste containers will be provided
- Containment strategies will include:
  - Revised guidance for when staff/students should stay home
    - Compliance with Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA) while in effect
  - Joint planning with ACPS in close partnership with local health officials
    - Case management and contact tracing
    - Closure decisions / switch to remote learning

# PROCUREMENT

Procurement has been and will continue to be a challenge, but we have been able to successfully source all areas of COVID supplies thus far, including:

- Masks
  - Face Shields
  - Gloves
  - Cleaning Solutions
  - Disinfecting Equipment
  - Touchless Thermometers (and batteries)
  - Plexiglass Dividers
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Sanitizing Charging Carts
- All first-round purchases have been RECEIVED
- Second-round purchases estimated delivery for July & August

# TRANSPORTATION

## **Layered Mitigation Measures:**

- Limited seating on buses
- Face coverings required
- Cleaning between routes
- Open windows for air circulation

## **Safe Routes To School:**

A working group of City & School staff is meeting weekly to develop resources and solutions to assist families with alternate transportation to schools (i.e. walking, biking, scooters, expanded car drop-off points, etc.). A resources web page is in development to provide maps and other information.

# SUMMARY

## KEY CONCEPTS:

- **Layering Mitigation Strategies** – A multi-pronged approach
- **Partnerships:**
  - ACPS
  - Local Health Department Officials
  - City Departments
  - Staff
  - Families
  - Students
  - Community Partners
- **Complex & Fluid Situation** – Flexibility is essential to navigate the changing situation, new information/data, and unfolding guidance. Plans are still evolving as we learn more and get feedback.

### Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools Phase III

#### *Programmatic Recommendations*

- ✓ In-person instruction may be offered for all students, however physical distancing measures should be implemented

#### *Health, Safety and Physical Distancing Recommendations*

- ✓ CDC advises that individuals maintain six feet of distance to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The World Health Organization (WHO) advises that schools maintain a 7 distance of at least one meter (approx. three feet) between everyone present at school, and is monitoring ongoing research. Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) says spacing as close as three feet may have similar benefits if students wear cloth face coverings and do not have symptoms of illness.

*VDH & VDOE - July 1, 2020*

**Balancing Risks to Mitigate Negative Impacts (for Students, Staff & Community)**