

Rachel Carson Middle School Phase-In/Return to School Parent Town Hall Meeting



October 28, 2020



Tonight's Agenda:

- Summarize the FCPS Phase-In Planning
- Provide more detailed information and responses to parent questions about the following topics:
 - Instruction
 - Scheduling
 - Health and Safety Protocols
 - Transportation
 - Social Distancing
 - Available Resources

Welcome - A Few Guiding Principles

We are focused on keeping students and staff safe and healthy as we return to school buildings for learning.

We are following recommended health guidance that focuses on student health, safety, and emotional well-being.

There are certain aspects of the phase-in planning where we have clarity. Other items will be dependent upon our final student numbers for preferred instructional setting (in-person or virtual).

Welcome - A Few Guiding Principles

Family Guide on Return to School

- Talk to your children about what school will be like when they return.
- Ask if they have questions and let them know we are all going to work together to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- Practice wearing a mask or face covering during the day.
- Discuss the importance of social distancing.
- Talk about washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.

FCPS Operational Levels



Schools and offices closed or open with limited personnel reporting.

All students learn virtually.



Groups 1-6

Schools and offices open for staff with limited public transactions.

Identified students in greatest need of additional support receive one or more days of in-person instruction in a cohort.

All other students continue virtual learning.



Groups 7-8

Schools and offices open for staff with limited public transactions.

Students participate in a hybrid model (online and in-person) with social distancing in place.



Public access to schools and buildings may remain limited.

All schools open at 100% capacity for in-person instruction.

Some staff may telework due to health accommodations.

Some students may continue to access online learning due to health needs or preference.

Questions from Families: Instruction

- Please share the entire phase plan to get back to 100% in school learning. My child does best with in-person instruction.
- With concurrent instruction, will the same teacher teach the same subject in both physical (in school) and virtual classroom?
- Will the students be attending on alternating days or concurrent days?
Example - Tuesdays/Thursdays so they would only be live with their A day teachers or Tuesday/Wednesday so they get an A day and a B day in person?

Questions from Families: Instruction

- Will teachers stream from home into classrooms attended by aids only?
- Will you have PE for in-person students? What will that look like?
- How about Orchestra and Band? What will that look like for children who attend in-person vs. virtually?
- What if FCPS runs 20-21 academic year in virtual only ? Are there any challenges?
- Will concurrent group and full-virtual group attend the same online class, or will staff and classes be different? What is the plan for the full virtual class group? Will they receive the same quality education as now or be affected by the change? I'm concerned that the full-virtual group may just be watching the in-person instruction via the blackboard.

Concurrent Instruction

A model in which instruction is accessed concurrently by students in-school and at-home



Concurrent Instruction

Students receive two days of teacher-led instruction in the school building and two days of teacher-led instruction at home. Students who select virtual learning will receive all four days of teacher-led instruction while learning at home.

- The concurrent instruction model is currently being piloted in several schools.
- This model maximizes teacher-led instruction (two days in person, two days virtual) by allowing in-person students to “log into” class on at-home days.
- Teacher-led concurrent instruction is the best instructional model for our in-person students.

All students will receive 4 days of teacher-led instruction.

Mondays: Students will have independent work day. Teachers will use for planning.

Concurrent Instruction - MS/HS Schedule

MS/HS Concurrent Instructional Schedule				
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A	Periods 1,3,5,7 In-School	Periods 2,4,6,8 In-School	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online
Group B	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online	Periods 1,3,5,7 In-School	Periods 2,4,6,8 In-School
Group C <i>(full time online)</i>	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online	Periods 1,3,5,7 Online	Periods 2,4,6,8 Online

The tentative start date for middle school students to begin in-person instruction is Tuesday, January 26th.

Two days of instruction in the school and two days of virtual instruction at home – both led by the teacher.

Mondays: Teachers will use for planning. Students will have independent work day.

Full-Time Virtual Instruction

Students who prefer to continue full-time virtual learning will receive **four days of teacher-led instruction** while learning from home.

Monday: Students will have independent work day. Teachers will use for planning.

Tuesday - Friday: Full-time online instruction led by teacher.

Questions from Families - Scheduling

- Will students need to change teachers or classes when they start in Jan? When will we know of any changes? How will small groups be run in the future with half kids at home and half kids at school?
- Will students schedule and teachers change when if there are students in school and online?
- Will teacher assignment change for those who wish to continue 100% virtual?
- Will student schedules or teachers need to be changed depending on the numbers of students/faculty choices?
- I want to know if it's possible for my son to return to the virtual class after experiencing the in person class and doesn't feel comfortable with it.
- Will there be another opportunity to change to in-person if the COVID numbers aren't trending upward in the early spring?

Questions from Families - Scheduling

- This seems a bit early to decide about end of January. If COVID peaks in December or January can parents decide to keep their children home and 100% virtual?
- Will there be a plan to group kids from the same family on the same school days (e.g. we have a child in elementary, middle and high school)?
- How will classes that have only one section, like Advanced Theater, work for virtual students
- If my child's teacher (a special educator) will be doing virtual instruction only, will the instructional assistants be facilitating in the classroom while the teacher instructs from home??

Scheduling

- It is our goal to maintain student schedules as they are set right now. We recognize the connections and routines that teachers and students have developed so far this year.
- To start the year, students were placed in sections according to the preference that they indicated in July.
- After we receive new student preferences, we will adjust individual schedules as necessary. Many of our subsequent actions will be based on our new student preferences.

Scheduling

- From what we know at this point, this is a one-time opportunity to adjust your preference for instructional setting.
- Gathering adjusted preferences now provides the necessary time to make changes to the master schedule and class schedules.
- We are asking for students and families to hold to their adjusted selection.

- Our plan is to divide our in-person students into two large groups, based on their last name.
 - Group 1 would attend in-person on Tuesday and Wednesday, followed by virtual instruction on Thursday and Friday.
 - Group 2 would receive virtual instruction on Tuesday and Wednesday, followed by in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday.

Scheduling

- We have to plan for some of our singleton classes (those where we have only one teacher) to be taught in a concurrent fashion.
- We do not have a firm date to announce the changes to schedules. More communication to come.

Question from Families: Health Protocols

- If a student or teacher is tested positive, will everyone in the same classes or within contact be switching to all virtual?

School Buildings

Safety Protocols



Cleaning Protocols



Refreshed Cleaning Methods/Processes

FCPS cleaning personnel will be sanitizing and disinfecting more frequently. Their cleaning protocol will include thoroughly disinfecting and sanitizing all surfaces, doors, toilets, and handles, and ensuring that all supplies are always fully stocked.

Increased Cleaning to High-Touch Surfaces/Points

FCPS cleaning crews will be sanitizing touch surfaces/points thoroughly such as door handles, glass, elevators buttons, doors, tables, chairs, and light switches. Daytime custodians have been instructed to continuously disinfect and sanitize all touch points throughout the day. In addition, we will be increasing daytime custodian coverage where appropriate, depending on building occupancy.

School Health Room

Support to students in the health room will continue to be provided by the School Health Aide. FCPS personnel will staff the **isolation room**.

Students with Individualized Health or Action Plans who require specialized care, medication administration and emergency care will be seen in the **health room**.

Parents will be required to bring in medications needed to support their student during the school day prior to or on the first day of school.

FCPS Approach to CDC's 5 Mitigation Strategies



Consistent and Correct Use of Masks

- New FCPS Regulation: Face Coverings to Mitigate the Spread of Infectious Disease (Regulation 2109)
- Face coverings will be worn by staff and students.
- Face coverings will be provided to students unable to provide their own.



Cleaning and Disinfection

- Daily sanitizing of high touch areas (doorknobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) with medical grade sanitizing solution
- Frequent monitoring and cleaning of restrooms throughout the day
- Contracted cleaning services utilized as needed



Contact Tracing in Collaboration With Local Health Department

- Collaborate with County Health Department in response to outbreaks in order to implement all necessary health and safety protocols
- Establishment of isolation rooms



Social Distancing to the Largest Extent Possible

- Six foot separation wherever possible; limited mixing among student groups
- Social distancing on buses in accordance with health and safety protocols
- Desks will be separated by up to a six feet distance, facing same direction
- Student traffic patterns that maintain social distancing
- Limit volunteers/visitors in buildings



Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Students will wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing; before eating; upon entering classrooms; breaks will be provided for hand washing.

Health Screening Commitment Form

Important!

Parents/guardians who chose in-school instruction for their child will be required to complete a [Parent/Guardian Health Screening Commitment form](#) as students are phased back into in-person learning.

The document indicates the parental/guardian agreement and commitment to completing a daily health screening prior to sending the student to school and also to keep ill students at home. These health screenings will be done on an honor basis and will not be required to be submitted to the school each day.

Families can complete this form in [ParentVue](#) – OR – submit the form to your child(ren's) school.



Parent/Guardian Health Screening Commitment Form

To protect our children and staff, I commit to complete a daily health screening of my child using the COVID-19 Health Screening Questions and to not to send my child to school when he/she is sick or feeling unwell with the symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This commitment will apply to all school-age children in my home.

I agree to screen all school-aged children in my home each day prior to sending him/her to school and agree to keep my child at home if he/she has:

- Feeling feverish and/or having chills (if documented temperature/fever of 100.4F or greater)
- A new cough not due to another health condition
- A new sore throat not due to another health condition
- New chills not due to another health condition
- New muscle pain not due to another health condition or that may have been caused by a specific activity such as physical exercise
- New loss of taste or smell

I understand that the COVID-19 Health Screening Questions may change over time as required by the Centers for Prevention and Disease Control (CDC) and that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will update the health screening questions, as required. FCPS will communicate any necessary changes to me and I agree to continue daily health screenings based on the current requirements.

I agree not to send my child to school if he/she has any of these signs of COVID-19 until:

- o My child tested negative for COVID-19 and is otherwise well enough to go back to school OR
- o A healthcare provider has seen my child and documented a reason for the symptoms other than COVID-19 OR
- o All are true: 1) at least 10 days since the start of symptoms AND 2) fever free off anti-fever medicines for 24 hours AND 3) symptoms are getting better.

I agree not to send my child back to school if he/she is diagnosed with COVID-19, until the following are met:

- o It has been at least 10 days since my child first had symptoms AND
- o My child has had no fever off anti-fever medicines (ex: Tylenol, ibuprofen) for 24 hours AND
- o My child's symptoms are getting better

If someone in my household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or my child is exposed, I agree to keep my child home for 14 days after their last exposure to the household member.

***Exposure is defined as spending more than 15 minutes within six feet of a person with COVID-19 or having exposure to the person's respiratory secretions (for example: coughed or sneezed); shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissing) while they were contagious. A person with COVID-19 is considered to be contagious starting 2 days before they became sick, or 2 days before they tested positive if they never had symptoms.**

If someone in my household develops fever, new cough, shortness of breath or two of the following: sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell, I will get that person evaluated and tested for COVID-19. If that person tests positive, I will keep my child home for 14 days after their last exposure to this household member OR as above if my child tests positive.

Child's name: _____
Parent/guardian name: _____
Parent/guardian signature: _____
Date: _____

Revised 8.9.20

Daily Temperature Checks



FCPS will be doing daily temperature checks. Please be aware that these protocols may change based on public health guidance.

School Entry: Temperatures will be taken for all students entering the building.

During School: Temperatures will be taken throughout the day for any student who:

- Arrives late to school.
- Takes off their face mask during the day and refuses to put it back on. This requirement does not apply when students are eating and drinking, sleeping, or during exercise, under the supervision of school staff.

At any time, if the temperature of a student is greater than or equal to 100.4° Fahrenheit, the student will be taken to an isolation room for further screening.

Face Coverings/Masks



All students who are two years old and up are required to wear face coverings (cloth or disposable) while on school property.

Face coverings will be provided to students unable to provide their own.

Any student requesting an exemption to wearing a face covering due to a medical exemption needs to provide the school a written statement from his or her physician confirming that not wearing a face covering is medically necessary.

If Sick at School





Becoming Ill While at School

Students will be sent home if they demonstrate:

- fever greater than or equal to 100.4 Fahrenheit
- new chills
- new cough
- new sore throat
- new muscle aches
- new loss of taste or smell
- nausea, or diarrhea

Parents/guardians will be notified and are expected to pick up their child within one hour of notification. Parents are to check in with the front office.

FCPS follows protocols provided by the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD). Each case will be handled individually in accordance with the FCHD established communicable disease and contact tracing protocols.

FCPS will follow health department guidelines for communicating information to parents/guardians. For more information visit www.vdh.virginia.gov.

Student Illness at Home

If a student becomes ill at home, STAY HOME.

Parents need to contact the school and report the reason for their child's absence.

Parents will need to follow established procedures when contacting the school regarding student illness.

Parents/guardians will be required to complete and return the [Permission to Return to School/Child Care Form](#) when the student returns.

The form will be completed by the health care provider and will indicate to the school when the student may safely return.

Returning to School After Illness

Families will receive guidance from the FCHD Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and School Health Aides (SHAs), identified as the school health team as to when their student can return to in-person learning.

Students who are showing signs of COVID Like Illness may not return to school until:

- Student has tested negative for COVID-19 **OR**
- A healthcare provider has seen the student and documented a reason for the symptoms other than COVID-19 **OR**
- All of these are true:
 - 1) at least 10 days since the start of symptoms **AND**
 - 2) fever free off anti-fever medicines for 24 hours **AND**
 - 3) symptoms are getting better

Students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, may not return until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started
- The student has had no fever or anti-fever medicines (ex: Tylenol, Ibuprofen) for 24 hours **AND**
- The student's symptoms are getting better

Students who have been exposed to COVID-19:

If someone in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or the student is exposed, the student must remain home for 14 days after their last exposure to the household member.

Response to COVID Case in a Classroom

With one confirmed case of COVID, the classroom will transition to 100% virtual learning for up to 14 days from the date of onset.

The school health team, will support the contact tracing process in our schools.

Individuals who are identified during the contact tracing will receive notification, as directed by the FCHD. The community will also be notified that a COVID case has occurred in a cohort and the contact tracing process has been initiated.

Upon the conclusion of contact tracing, cleaning and disinfecting, students and staff in the cohort will be notified as to when they will return to in-person learning.

The length of time for this process may be shorter than 14 days based on results of contact investigation and tracing by the FCHD. The community will also be notified that the contacting tracing has been completed and of any further recommendations.

Response to Two or More COVID Cases in a School

As related to school closure, FCPS will work closely with the FCHD to make the determination as to whether or not an entire school will be required to transition to distance learning based on contact tracing.

Should multiple linked cases occur, the community will receive **immediate communication** of an outbreak and all students would be transitioned to distance learning for a period of time.

A **follow up communication** will go out to the community when in-person learning may resume, as recommended by the FCHD.

Questions from Families: Transportation

- Transportation- do we need to drive our students?
- With so many parents driving their children to school, how can the start and end of school be staggered to accommodate all of the traffic? (I'm thinking specifically of material pick-up.) Where will the kids go after drop off and how will they await pick up and not be in large groups?
- How will social distancing be maintained on a school bus?

Bus Transportation



Parents will receive information about bus schedules prior to start.

Seating capacity will be reduced to allow for social distancing. Temperature checks will be done at the bus stop. As more students return, daily temperature checks for all students may need to be reconsidered.

- Students demonstrating a temperature greater than or equal to 100.4° Fahrenheit will not be able to board the bus and will be sent home with the parent/guardian.
- A student not accompanied by a parent/guardian registering a temperature will not be able to board the bus, however school staff will contact the parent to meet the student at the bus stop.
- Students are reminded to wear a face coverings when riding the school bus.
- Students will be required to sit in seats as marked on the school bus.

Bus Transportation (Continued)



- Bus stop information will be available at the school and in [ParentVUE](#).
- **Here Comes the Bus** app is available and provides school bus arrival information.
- We are following the 2020-21 bell schedule at this time.
- Date of when bell schedules will change is not yet known.
- Social distancing requirements limit capacity on school buses.
- A bell schedule change will impact both in-person learning as well as students who are doing full-time virtual learning.

Questions from Families: Social Distancing

- How far apart will the students be in school? How will lunch work?
- Will students stay in one classroom or rotate to different classrooms during the day?
- * How will the lunch breaks take place? Will they all congregate in the cafeteria or will they be allowed to eat in their classes?
- * What are the steps you will take to minimize crowds in the hallways when students move from one class to another?
- How will lunch be handled safely when kids remove masks and are social with each other? Right now, lunch is an hour, what will it look like when students are live? What will they do for an hour?

Social Distancing at School



Social distancing should be maintained as much as possible. Exceptions may occur when a student requires support for activities of daily living that may make staff unable to maintain a distance of six feet. In all other cases, six feet of social distancing should be maintained as much as possible.

- Six foot separation wherever possible; limited mixing among student groups.
- Social distancing on buses in accordance with health and safety protocols.
- Desks/seats will be separated by up to a six feet distance, facing same direction.
- Student traffic patterns in hallways will be set up to maintain social distancing, including during arrival and dismissal.

Handwashing



Students will wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; before eating, and upon entering classrooms.

There will be breaks provided during the day for handwashing.

Automatic hand sanitizer dispensing stands have been placed at school entrances and 1-gallon pump containers of hand sanitizer are available in all classrooms.

Lunch



Use of the cafeteria for lunches is the ideal. We will make this determination based on our in-person student numbers.

We can effectively socially distance students in the cafeteria. Students would have assigned seats.

Masks will be required when students wait in the cafeteria line, but not required when eating.

For students participating in virtual learning, grab and go meals are still available to all FCPS students at school sites and on bus routes.

School Supplies and Communal Classroom Items

Students **will be required to label and maintain their own** personal set of required classroom supplies. Keep them in their backpack and take them to and from school each day.



Students will not be allowed to share electronic devices, toys, books, games or learning aids unless they can be cleaned or disinfected.

Students **should bring their own water bottle** for use during the day.

Water fountains can be used to refill water bottles if practical, but students and staff should not be drinking directly from any water fixtures; individual water bottles should be used instead.

Lockers will not be available for student use.

Student Laptops

Students returning for in-person school should plan to bring their FCPS-assigned laptops with them to school and take that laptop home each day to support digital learning activities in school as assigned by their teacher.

Extra laptops may not be available in all classrooms.

The laptop should be fully charged each morning to ensure it is ready to use when the students get into the classroom. This helps limit the number of shared surfaces among students.

Parents should not spray disinfectant spray on the device or apply hand sanitizer directly on the device as it may damage the electronics. Parents may use an alcohol wipe or disinfectant wipe to gently wipe down the laptop and keyboard if necessary.

Visitors to FCPS Facilities

When possible (unless an emergency) visitors must **schedule appointments prior** to visiting a school by contacting the main office.

All visitors will be required to **complete a health screening questionnaire** and must submit to a temperature check prior to entering the building.

All visitors are required to **wear a face covering** (cloth or disposable) while on school property and inside FCPS facilities.

Visitors who do not have face coverings will be provided a disposable mask upon entering a school.

Visitor access should be limited to essential activities.

Resources



Mental Health and Wellness

All children and youth face challenges from time to time managing emotions such as feeling depressed, anxious, or worried.

As students prepare to return to in-person learning, these emotions may be heightened.

Our school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers are available to support all students as they transition back to their school buildings.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis, or if you believe there may be a mental health emergency, call 911. Additional resources are available at www.fcps.edu and search [Mental Health Emergency Services](#).

FCPS - Helpful Links



[Instruction Update for Small Groups](#)

[Mental Health Resources and Emergency Services Information](#)

[Parent/Guardian Health Screening Commitment form](#)

[ParentVue](#) – where parents can access information about their child(ren)

[Return to School](#)

[Student Health and Safety Guidance Document](#)

Plus

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Permission to Return to School/Child Care Form](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

“How-To” Videos - Links

[Mask-Wearing](#)

[Riding the Bus](#)

[Return to School Daily Procedures](#)

[ParentVue](#)

**Families have until Fri. Nov. 6th to
make changes to their preferred
instructional setting.**

**We are very grateful for your
patience, support, and engagement!**