



COVID MITIGATION PLAN FOR 2021-2022

Effective September 7, 2021

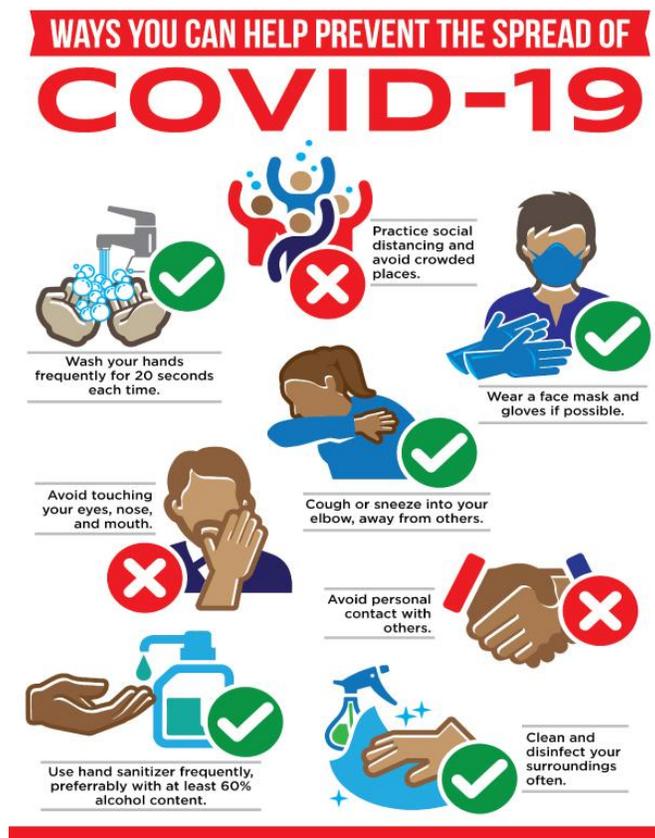
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Signage

There will be signage throughout our facilities promoting ways students and staff can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Signage will promote the following precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds each time
- Practice social distancing and avoid crowded places whenever possible
- Wear a face mask except where social distancing as defined in the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) can be accomplished
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow, away from others
- Avoid personal contact with others
- Use hand sanitizer frequently
- Clean and disinfect your surroundings often
- Limit visitors



Masking

Except where minimal social distancing as defined by the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) can be achieved, CCS is mandating mask use for all people, regardless of vaccination status, including students, teachers, staff and visitors because a benefit of masking is protection against COVID as well as other respiratory illnesses. When teachers, staff and students consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important indoors and in crowded settings. Wearing a mask will significantly reduce the number of those who are quarantined. CCS will ensure layered mitigation strategies, including physical distancing (when possible) and hand hygiene as well as closely monitoring for increases in COVID-19 cases.

Note: Masks will be provided to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them. No disciplinary action will be taken against a student who does not have a mask.



Vaccinations

The decision regarding whether or not to be vaccinated is a personal choice but if you would like any information regarding vaccinations, you may contact [Albemarle Regional Health Department](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

ARHS is continuing to accept vaccine appointments for first and second dose Moderna and Pfizer, along with Johnson and Johnson, at each of the local health departments. Appointments will be available to residents of the eight county region who are 12 and older.

**Pasquotank County
Health Department**
252-338-4400

**Perquimans County
Health Department**
252-426-2100

**Camden County
Health Department**
252-338-4460

**Chowan County
Health Department**
252-482-6003

**Currituck County
Health Department**
252-232-2271

**Bertie County Health
Department**
252-794-5322

**Gates County
Health Department**
252-357-1380

**Hertford County
Health Department**
252-862-4054



Physical Distancing

Whenever and wherever possible, CCS will maintain the minimum distance as defined in the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) between students and adults within school settings to the greatest extent possible. CCS will minimize opportunities for close contact resulting from sustained exposure between students by encouraging teachers to develop instructional and non-instructional activities that minimize close contact. Additionally, teachers and staff should minimize opportunities for close contact during staff meetings, planning periods, lunch, recess, in teacher lounges, and break rooms and other areas teachers and staff may congregate. Visitors will be allowed in the school buildings by appointment only and will be required to wear a mask.



Transportation

Effective January 29, 2021, the CDC issued a federal “Order” requiring face coverings on all “conveyances” with limited exceptions such as private vehicles. The federal government clearly takes the position that school buses (yellow and activity) are considered a form of public transportation and covered by the CDC Order. Federal law takes precedence over any State law, guidance or recommendations and the federal CDC Order does mandate the use of face coverings on school buses and other forms of public transportation.

Bus

- All students who are ages 5 years and older, and all teachers, staff, and other adults will be required to wear face coverings when they are on a bus.*
- If an individual becomes sick during the day, that individual will not be allowed to use group transportation.*
- If a driver becomes sick during the day, the driver will follow protocols outlined herein and not return to drive students until they meet criteria to return.*
- Windows will be kept open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate, safe and weather permitting.*
- Transportation vehicles will be cleaned regularly.*
- The safe and correct use of cleaning and disinfection products and proper storage of such products will be ensured.*
- Touched surfaces in the vehicles will be cleaned frequently.*
- Windows and doors will be kept open when cleaning the vehicles.*
- Student seating will be assigned.*
- Hand sanitizer and masks will be provided.*



Cleaning and Hygiene



Camden County Schools will:

- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g. soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, etc.)
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Clean surfaces once a day, prioritizing high-touch surfaces.
- Utilize cleaning supplies designed to kill the COVID virus.



Instructional Spaces

Students will be socially distanced to *maintain the minimum distance as defined in the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)* when feasible and encouraged to limit the sharing of resources.

Requirements

- Desks will be placed to maintain the minimum distance as defined in the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) (3 feet to the extent possible) in order to lower the risk of transmission of any illness. Group activities such as “carpet time” will be strongly discouraged.
- The sharing of personal items and supplies in the classroom such as writing utensils will be limited with precautions in place.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to students as they enter and exit the classroom during the day.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each day.

Shared Spaces



Limiting use of shared spaces ensures that student and staff health and safety is prioritized. The following guidelines will be used to limit use of shared spaces.

Cafeteria

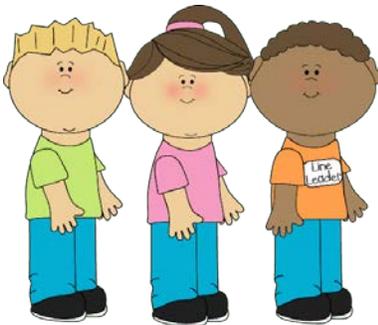
- Breakfast will be served Grab-N-Go via Kiosk, delivered to the classrooms, and/or picked up in the cafeteria setting and taken back to the classroom.*
- Lunch will be served/eaten in the school cafeterias.*

Hallways

- Signage will be placed throughout the school to remind students to social distance and to wash their hands frequently.*
- Disposable cups will be available for student use at the water fountains. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles and use the touchless filling stations when available.*

Restrooms

- Teachers will work out a schedule that allows students to use the restroom one class at a time.*
- Bathroom access will be limited to a small number of students at one time.*
- Students will be expected to wash their hands before leaving the restroom.*



Handling Possible, Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19

Symptoms: Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of [COVID-19](#) should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick is essential to keep infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.

For students, staff, and teachers with chronic conditions, symptom presence should represent a change from their typical health status to warrant exclusion from school. Occurrence of any of the symptoms below while a student, teacher, or staff member is at school suggests the person may be referred for diagnostic COVID-19 testing, evaluation and/or quarantine:

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Sore throat
- Cough (for people with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for people with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

More information on [how to monitor for symptoms](#) is available from the CDC.

Diagnosed: People presumed to have or who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home until they meet the criteria for return to school. Staying home when sick with COVID is essential to keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools and preventing spread to others.

Exposed: It is also essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent close contact to someone with COVID-19.

All schools will:

- Have staff perform self-monitoring of symptoms.**
- Have families conduct home-based symptom screening for students, following typical school policies to keep children at home when ill. Recommend that families refer children to diagnostic testing who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.**
 - NCDHHS does not recommend daily COVID-19 symptom screening for all students at school entry. Schools should follow their typical procedures for exclusion as they would for any type of illness if a child is symptomatic at school.
- Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to a designated area at the school**
 - Maintain a dedicated space to isolate symptomatic individuals who become ill during the school day or disclose that they have tested positive for COVID-19. That Space should not be used for other purposes.
- Require school nurses or dedicated school staff who provide direct patient care to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.**
- Ensure symptomatic students remain under visual supervision of a staff member who is at least 6 feet away. The supervising adult should wear a cloth face covering or a procedure mask.**
- Have a plan for how to transport an ill student or staff member home or to medical care.**
- Quarantine and suggest diagnostic testing for individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 at school or disclose recent known close contact to a person with COVID-19.**

Implement cleaning and disinfecting procedures following [CDC guidelines](#).

Utilize [NCDHHS and the CDC quarantine guidance](#).

CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID CASE

Isolation is required for all presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

- Require that staff and students disclose and stay at home or go home if:**
- They are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet criteria for return
 - They have tested positive for COVID-19, until they meet criteria for return

Quarantine is required for an individual who has been a close contact of someone who is determined positive with COVID-19 either through testing or symptom consistent diagnosis, with the following exceptions:

- Individuals who are **fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms** do NOT need to quarantine after a close contact.
- People who have **tested antibody positive for COVID-19 or COVID-19 positive within the past 3 months and recovered and do not have symptoms** do NOT have to quarantine.
- **Students who are not fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom or other school setting if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed persons, the potentially exposed persons** do NOT need to quarantine. This applies to exposure in classrooms, other in-school settings, and school transportation **but does not apply to exposures during extracurricular activities, including athletic activities. This does not apply to adults.**

- CDC continues to recommend quarantine for 14 days after last exposure. However, the CDC has offered options to reduce the duration of quarantine in the following:
 - 10 days of quarantine have been completed and no symptoms have been reported during daily at home monitoring;
 - 7 days of quarantine have been completed and no symptoms have been reported during daily at home monitoring, and the individual has received results of a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test on a test taken no earlier than Day 5 of quarantine.
 - If quarantine is discontinued before Day 14, the individual should continue to monitor symptoms.

- Report to local health authorities any suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases among students and staff (as required by [NCGS §130A-136](#)).

- CCS will implement the approved [Contact Tracing Plan](#) and all persons impacted will be contacted as soon as possible.



Athletics, School Programs and Extracurricular Activities

Camden County Schools will allow students the opportunity to participate in athletics, school programs and extracurricular activities. During athletics, school programs and extracurricular activities, audience members, inside spectators, administrators, athletes on the side lines, and coaches will be required to wear masks. However, while students or athletes are actively participating in sports or school programs, they will not be required to wear masks. Extracurricular activities such as club meetings, attendees will be required to wear masks. When traveling to other school districts, the guidelines of that district will apply to all CCS staff, students, athletes and spectators.

