



# King George County Schools

## Phase II – Letter to Families

**The information outlined in this letter is only in effect for the summer session in reference to the programs listed. These guidelines do not apply to other programs and are subject to change due to updated protocols from health and education officials. Additional information for the return to school in August will be provided at a later date.**

July 2020

Dear King George County Schools Families,

We have been working closely with local and state health official and the Rappahannock Area Health District to develop a plan to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. This letter serves to inform you of some key guidelines on what actions and precautions are being taken to make our school(s) safe and minimize risk of disease transmission.

### **Phase II Programs**

Governor Northam announced Phase III on July 1 for Virginia, however final guidelines have not been provided to school divisions. Therefore, any program offerings at this time must comply with the Phase II guidelines we have in place. King George County Schools will begin offering the following programs, in limited capacity, in accordance with Phase II guidelines:

1. Evaluations for Special Education services
2. Behind the Wheel instruction for previously scheduled students
3. Off-season conditioning for select high school athletic teams
4. Commonwealth Governor's School math boot camp
5. Commonwealth Governor's School new student meeting
6. Nurse Aide tutoring and testing session

### **Expectations for Parents**

While our school will have precautions in place to keep students safe, the health of each student begins at home. Please share these items with your student and begin conversations now about what to expect. Parents are expected to take the following actions to support a healthy school community:

- **HEALTH SCREENING AT HOME:** Each morning, you should take your child's temperature, and ask if they are experiencing symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, fatigue, or upset stomach. Students with any of these symptoms should stay home. (See attached for a list of these symptoms)
- **EXPOSURE TO COVID-19:** Keep children at home if they have had recent close contact (within the last 14 days) with a person with COVID-19 or have been notified by the health department to quarantine due to exposure to a person with COVID-19
- **HANDWASHING:** Children should wash their hands before leaving home and frequently throughout the day. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds (roughly the time it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice) is one of the best known ways to prevent the spread of illness. Children should always wash hands after using the restroom, before eating, and when their hands are otherwise soiled. If handwashing is not available, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol is a good alternative. Students may keep their own hand sanitizer with them during summer programs.
- **FACE COVERINGS:** Give children masks to wear all day while at school. When we breathe, talk, sing, or yell, our mouths and nose give off tiny droplets, which can spread illness. Face coverings help prevent the spread of these droplets, which can in turn keep others safe. Face coverings should be washed daily. Practice wearing face coverings at home and in public.

## **School Precautions**

The following strategies will be in place to prevent person to person spread of illness at school. Since many people who have COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms, it is important that everyone at our school practice these precautions at all times:

- **DAILY HEALTH SCREENING:** In addition to parents checking for symptoms at home, symptom checks will also be conducted upon arrival at school. This includes temperature checks and a series of health questions. If a child is showing symptoms, parents will need to immediately pick them up to return home. Faculty and staff will also be completing a self-check for symptoms every morning prior to entering the building.
- **FACE COVERINGS:** Wearing of face coverings will be reinforced at school. Students are strongly urged to wear face coverings when around others, including on the bus and in the classroom. Teachers and staff will be required to wear face coverings when they are within 6 feet of students.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Whenever possible, maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others. We understand this will be challenging for both students and teachers who may be used to a learning environment with group activities and high fives. We will do our best to support students through this transition, and will implement CDC practices such as spacing desks and having all students face in the same direction. Our hope is that these changes will help serve as a reminder that we need to keep physical distance from one another.
- **HANDWASHING:** Frequent handwashing will be reinforced at school.
- **CLEANING:** Teachers and staff will avoid the use of shared materials and supplies among students. Any items that are used from student to student will be disinfected in accordance with established cleaning protocols.
- **TRAINING:** All staff members have received training on COVID-19 protocols and health mitigation strategies and will adhere to them at all times. If you have questions or concerns in regards to the health mitigation plan, or any staff member's adherence to the guidelines, please contact the administrator for your program, as listed below. You can also contact Mary Fisher, Supervisor of Student and Family Services.

In addition to the above general expectations, please see additional information below specific to the program offering.

### **Evaluations for Special Education Services**

#### **Program Administrator: Ann Bueche**

Case managers will contact families directly to schedule evaluations and review the protocols in place at this time. Evaluations will be scheduled by appointment only. If you cannot make your scheduled time, please contact the case manager or evaluator as soon as possible.

Grades PK-2: One parent may escort the child into the evaluation. Child and parent must be screened prior to entering the building. The parent must wear a face covering at all times. The child will wear a face covering when/if appropriate. Teachers and staff members will wear masks and face shields, along with gowns and gloves when appropriate. When not in the evaluation room, the parent must remain in the designated waiting area. The evaluator will bring the child back to the parent at the conclusion of the evaluation.

Grades 3-12: Upon arrival, the parent will call the evaluator from the designating parking area. The evaluator or other staff member will come to the car to screen the child and escort them in to the building. The child will wear a face covering when/if appropriate. Teachers and staff members will wear masks and face shields, along with gowns and gloves when appropriate. The evaluator will bring the child back to the parent at the conclusion of the evaluation. *If your child is not developmentally able to attend the evaluation without you, please let your case manager know immediately. The parent must wear a face covering at all times.*

### **Behind the Wheel**

#### **Program Administrator: Jesse Boyd**

Behind the Wheel will be offered to students that were previously scheduled for summer instruction. Because physical distancing cannot be maintained, students and staff must wear face coverings at all time. Students must bring hand sanitizer to use prior to entering the vehicle, and throughout the lesson as needed. Behind the Wheel is not a required component of the instructional day and is a voluntary offering. If students cannot adhere to the health mitigation requirements, they will be removed from the schedule.

## Off-season Conditioning for Student-Athletes Program Administrator: Alex Fisher

All athletic teams will adhere to sports specific guidelines published by VHSL. Those guidelines can be found on the VHSL website at:

[https://docs.google.com/file/d/1JUIDuUXrNzehGvLeVG\\_bDtUUfcZg1CXu/preview?rm=minimal](https://docs.google.com/file/d/1JUIDuUXrNzehGvLeVG_bDtUUfcZg1CXu/preview?rm=minimal)

Coaches will provide educational information, training videos, and protocols for student-athletes to parents.

## Commonwealth Governor's School Activities Program Administrator: Jennifer Grigsby, Danny McNamara, Amanda Higgins

Students and parents will be screened prior to entering the building. Staff, students, and parents must wear a face covering at all times and also must adhere to social distancing requirements.

## Nurse Aide Tutoring and Testing Session Program Administrator: Belinda Cameron

Students and staff will be screened prior to entering the building. Staff and students must wear a face covering at all times and also must adhere to social distancing requirements.

## Probable cases of COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to spread throughout our community. Because our school brings so many people together, we need to assume we will see cases of COVID-19 in our school community. While the practices above outline measures to prevent the spread of illness, the following protocols will be in place in the event an individual in our school develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day:

- Teachers have received additional training to identify symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is identified as symptomatic, they will be escorted to a designated room in our school where they can be kept separate from others.
- The student will be given a surgical mask to wear, and the school nurse will ask them about their symptoms. If the student is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, parents or guardians will be called to come pick the child up. **A parent or trusted adult identified on the student's contact information form is required to pick the student up within 1 hour of receiving a phone call.** Siblings and other household members may also be required to go home at this time, due to likely close contact.
- Upon arrival to the school, the parent will call to notify the school that they are in the parking lot. The student and other household members will then be escorted to the car by a staff member.
- The student and parent/guardian will be provided information on how to receive a diagnostic test for COVID-19. If the test is negative, the child may return to school. If the test is positive, additional instructions will be provided about isolation at home and when the student can return to school.

## Program notifications

We understand our whole community may have a lot of questions if a case of COVID-19 is identified in the school. Given this, we have outlined the procedures we will follow in the event of a case:

- If a student or teacher has a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, any students or staff members who may have come in close contact with the positively testing individuals will be notified of their level of exposure. Students identified to have medium to high risk of exposure **will be required to quarantine at home beginning the following day after exposure.** The Rappahannock Area Health District will contact families by phone to provide instructions for quarantining.
- These same procedures will apply if a student or staff member becomes symptomatic during the school day and COVID-19 is suspected. If a symptomatic student tests negative for COVID-19, all students may return to work the following day. If the symptomatic student tests positive, all students who may have been exposed will be required to quarantine at home for 14 days. **Parents will need to plan accordingly for childcare needs in the event your student needs to be home unexpectedly.**

- Some students and staff members who may be identified as a close contact by a health department investigation of the individual may be required to quarantine for 14 days. Families will be provided with information on how to monitor for symptoms and a reminder of the precautions to prevent the spread of disease.
- In certain circumstances, such as a large outbreak of cases, the school may have to return to an online learning environment for a period of time. Families should have contingency plans in place should the school need to close for several weeks.

### **Students with Underlying Medical Conditions**

People with underlying medical conditions have an increased risk for severe illness due to COVID-19. Students with underlying medical conditions should not participate in voluntary programs unless their doctor has determined it is safe to do so. According to the CDC, underlying medical conditions include:

- Severe Asthma, including those on daily medication for asthma or who have had an ER visit in the last year for asthma
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease, including those being treated with dialysis, hypertension, kidney transplant and immune suppressant drugs, attacks on the kidney tissue by disease or the immune system (glomerulonephritis), the growth of cysts on the kidneys (polycystic kidney disease), damage due to backward flow of urine into the kidneys (reflux nephropathy),
- Chronic lung disease such as cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or pulmonary fibrosis
- Hemoglobin Disorders: Hemoglobin disorders such as sickle cell disease (SCD) and thalassemia
- Immunocompromised including individuals undergoing cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, HIV with a low CD4 cell count or not on HIV treatment, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- Liver disease such as liver cancer, chronic hepatitis or liver cirrhosis
- Autoimmune disease or cancer treatment
- Serious heart conditions including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathies, and pulmonary hypertension.
- Severe obesity: BMI of 40 or greater

We are confident these practices will make a difference in keeping our students and staff safe as we return to learn. As we are all adapting to unprecedented times, we appreciate your patience as we all adjust to this new environment. If you have questions, please contact your school or program administrator or call the Rappahannock Area Health District at 540-899-4797.