

# **Return To School Plan**

Franklin County Public  
Schools

**NOVEMBER 2022**

25 Bernard Rd  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
[www.frco.k12.va.us](http://www.frco.k12.va.us)

# FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

**November 2022** (no revisions since July 2022)

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### Section 1: Introduction

Franklin County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure access to teaching and learning, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs. **Frequently asked questions (FAQ) about this plan can be found [here](#).** Should you need more information please contact **Jason Guilliams, Director of Operations at 540-483-5538.**

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### Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Franklin County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during the 2022-2023 school year. **The following planned mitigations are subject to change based on community and school need as well as mandates from the state or federal level:**

#### **Masks**

The Franklin County School Board voted to allow parents the choice to have their child wear a mask or not wear a mask while in school and while on the bus beginning February 28, 2022. Employees are no longer required to wear a mask in the school building but may continue to do so if they choose.

In general, masks are not routinely recommended in these settings, indoors or outdoors, except during isolation as specified below. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or for children under the age of 2.

#### **Vaccines**

Franklin County Public Schools will continue to communicate with families about community vaccination opportunities.

## **Ventilation**

- There will be ongoing improvements to our existing system.
- We will continue to use air purifiers in every classroom.

## **Handwashing**

- We will continue to encourage proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

## **Cleaning**

- Routine cleaning and disinfecting will continue to maintain healthy facilities.

## **Contact Tracing**

- Schools are no longer expected to contact trace every individual case.

## **Changing Mitigation Strategies**

Franklin County Public Schools will continue to collaborate with the local Virginia Department of Health concerning Covid-19 and any recommendations for mitigating the spread of Covid-19.

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## **Section 3: Staff and Student Health Procedures**

Staff and students should not come to school if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. They should notify school officials if they test positive for COVID-19. The COVID-19 point of contact for the school division is Jason Guilliams – Director of Operations. The COVID-19 point of contact at each school is the Principal or Head Nurse.

School procedures:

- Immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.

## **Isolation Procedure**

### **If you test positive for Covid-19**

- Inform your Principal or Supervisor
- Isolate and stay home for 5 days
- Must be fever free for 24 hours and symptoms resolving to return to work

- Wear a mask on days 6-10
- If the individual is unable or unwilling to mask during this time, VDH recommends a negative test on or after Day 6 in order to return to programming OR the person should remain home through day 10.
- Isolation calculator

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/protect-yourself/isolation-quarantine/#positive>

## **Quarantine Procedures**

### **If you have been exposed to Covid-19**

- For those exposed but asymptomatic, quarantine is no longer recommended in the K-12 setting. Individuals may continue to attend as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Students or staff who have ongoing household exposures to a person with Covid-19, VDH recommends students and staff consider more frequent testing.

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## **Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER III plan Franklin County Public Schools invited a diverse group of stakeholders to serve on the planning committee. The 82 individuals on the committee included: parents of school-aged students, teachers, principals, President at a higher ed institution, high school students, local business owners, law enforcement, paraprofessionals, and district administrators. In addition, there were individuals and/or organizations that represented and advocated for English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children with disabilities, civil rights, public health and mental wellness and other underserved or at-risk students. Members served on one of five subcommittees: Instructional (including learning loss), operations, human resources, special education, and mental health to identify the needs and priorities for each area.

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## **Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan**

During the period of the ARP ESSER award, Franklin County Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed in December and June through 2023, and Franklin County Public Schools will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

## Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Franklin County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- Post the plan at : <http://frco.k12.va.us/home> on or before August 1, 2021, for 30 days
- Provide the opportunity for public comment
- The plan will be available in Spanish
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting: Jason Guilliams, Director of Operations at 540-483-5540.

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**If you have any questions, please contact Jason Guilliams, Director of Operations at 540-483-5538.**