



Forsyth R-III Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

General Guidelines

The following guidelines will be in place for Forsyth R-III Schools as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. As we transition back to normal procedures, we will continue to communicate with parents and patrons of any changes in procedures that may take place. These measures may be updated or changed as new information becomes available. These guidelines will be followed to the extent possible to maintain student, staff and community safety. Decisions will be made in coordination with the Taney County Health Department. Protocols have been put in place taking into consideration the guidance of the CDC, DESE, and MSBA. Up to date levels of operation will be maintained on our school web page. This plan was created with public input and will be reevaluated every six months.

Goal

Our goal is to keep students and staff healthy and provide a safe, in-person learning environment to the best of our ability. This effort will require cooperation among our students, staff, and families.

Forsyth R-III Schools is committed to returning to fully seated in-person learning on August 24th. We believe that students learn best when they are receiving face to face instruction and learning experiences. Each of our protocols are put in place to give every student the opportunity to obtain the entire educational experience they deserve. Some of our protocols have changed as we deal with the Delta Variant of COVID-19.

Vaccination Information

Fully vaccinated students or staff who are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. If a fully vaccinated person exhibits symptoms then they would be quarantined as a close contact.

Level 1: Face to Face Learning (current planned status for August 24, 2021 start) (Green Level)

- School operations will be as normal as possible
- Social distancing will be encouraged at all times and students will be instructed on appropriate hygiene practices and protocols.
- Facial coverings will be **recommended for all students grades PK-12 and all Forsyth staff. Facial coverings are still recommended for anyone who has been vaccinated for COVID-19.** Facial coverings will be provided for all students and staff if they choose. Students and staff may use a facial covering of their own.
- Facial coverings will be recommended at any time a student cannot achieve social distance. Facial coverings are not required when normal school procedures are taking place and students and staff

can maintain social distance. For example: We recommend that students wear masks during hallway travel and transition time but when in the classroom and can social distance.

- Face shields will not be acceptable as facial coverings to meet CDC quarantine guidelines.
- Non-essential visitors will be limited. Only visitors related to instruction will be allowed. Therefore, we are unable to host guests to eat lunch/breakfast with students, volunteers, mentors, etc. We will re-evaluate this monthly.
- Class meetings will be held only when social distancing may be achieved. No building wide assemblies will be held unless they are in a space where social distance may be maintained. This will be re-evaluated monthly.
- Field trips will be limited to events where our students are the only groups in attendance. This protocol will be re-evaluated monthly.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizer will be available and frequently encouraged.

Level 1:	Face to Face Learning Guidelines
<p>Student Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students and staff recommended to wear a facial covering at school. ● All students and staff are required to wear a facial covering on buses and any district transportation based on Federal guidelines. ● Any student or staff may wear a facial covering if they so choose. ● Disposable facial coverings will be available for students upon request. ● Students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms. If found to have a temperature above 100 degrees, student will promptly be sent home. If students exhibit cough, shortness of breath, or at least two of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever (Above 100 degrees) ○ Chills ○ Repeated shaking with chills ○ Headache ○ Sore Throat ○ New loss of taste or smell ○ Runny Nose/Congestion ○ & Other flu-like symptoms <p>the student will be sent to the nurse’s office for evaluation. If a student's symptoms are determined to possibly be COVID-19 related, the student will be sent home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are vaccinated are exempt from quarantine if they are a close contact unless they are exhibiting symptoms. (CDC Guideline) ● Students may be allowed back at school with one of the following: symptom free for <u>24 hours</u>, , a doctor’s note to return to school, or after 10 days of quarantine.

<p>Student Social and Emotional Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students. ● Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Strongly encourage hand washing during all the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After going to the bathroom. ○ After playing outside. ○ Before eating. ○ After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. ● If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. ● Remind students to not touch their eyes, nose or mouth. ● Remind students to not share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with others. ● Personal water bottles are encouraged. ● Each student and staff will be provided one water bottle. Bottle fill stations will be available. ● Students will be active in sanitizing their work and play areas/equipment to help disinfect throughout the day. ● Workspaces will be sanitized routinely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activate the Forsyth crisis management teams within the building to address psychological and emotional concerns in conjunction with the local mental health services, including post-traumatic stress syndrome counseling (MSCA guidance)
<p>Staff Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If staff exhibit cough, shortness of breath, or at least two of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever (Above 100 degrees) ○ Chills ○ Repeated shaking with chills ○ Headache ○ Sore Throat ○ New loss of taste or smell ○ Runny Nose/Congestion ○ & Other flu-like symptoms <p>Staff member will be sent to the nurses' office for evaluation. If a staff member's symptoms are determined to possibly be COVID-19 related, the staff member will be sent home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccinated staff members will be exempt from quarantine protocols unless they are exhibiting symptoms. ● Staff may be allowed back to work with one of the following: symptom free for <u>24 hours</u>, a doctor's note to return to school, or after 10 days of quarantine. ● The workspace will be disinfected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees will routinely wash their hands for at least 20 seconds.
<p>Building Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial department is implementing a specified sanitation plan using approved cleaning products across the district. • Custodial Department will ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices throughout each facility. • Individuals encouraged to sanitize hands upon entry and exit of all buildings. Hand sanitizing stations will be available to do so. • Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched periodically throughout the day. Items to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doorknobs ○ Light switches ○ Classroom sink handles ○ Countertops ○ Lockers ○ Playground equipment • Clean with effective cleaners that are typically used for those cleaning surfaces. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. • Provide disinfectant wipes to teachers, staff, or students so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down before use. • Increase airflow and ventilation as weather allows. (Open windows, use air conditioning where available, etc.) Encourage use of outdoor learning spaces. • Post signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices. • Students should keep their own supplies to limit sharing supplies when possible. • Students may experience seating assignments to help with contact tracing if it is needed. • Student hallway traffic will be coordinated to eliminate large groups traveling together.
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students are required to wear a facial covering while on the bus. • All drivers and staff members will wear a facial covering while on the bus. • Students will be separated on the bus where feasible, but social distancing cannot be guaranteed. • Students on buses will be required to wear facial covering when social distancing cannot occur. • Buses will be appropriately disinfected after each use. • Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID-19 safety

	measures.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students who do not ride the bus, parents are expected to drop off their child at the parent drop off locations. • Parents may come to the office for late student check in or to check their student out. • Classrooms will be organized to allow for physical distancing. • We will have two health stations available if isolation is needed.
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance will be reviewed to monitor absenteeism patterns among both students and staff to assess District health. • Students and staff are encouraged to stay home when sick • Students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms. If a temp of above 100 degrees is found, student will promptly be sent home.
Action Plan if Confirmed Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Taney County Health Department will be notified. Targeted disinfecting will take place. Communication and re-entry will be determined based on guidance from the Taney County Health Department. • Monitor exposure, absenteeism, and symptoms within classroom/building to determine further action, based on the guidance from the Taney County Health Department. • Identify student exposure in relation to direct contact with others and facility exposure for targeted cleaning. • Perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, phones, technology, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary. • Inspect areas to determine readiness for re-entry. • Consult with the Health Department prior to re-entry.

If extenuating circumstances arise, there is potential for our District to implement level 2 (required masks), level 3 (blended learning) or level 4 (at home learning) learning plans. Additional information will be provided if necessary.

Level 2: Face to Face Learning with Required Masks Based on Increased Covid-19 Related Absences) (Yellow Level)

- School operations will be as normal as possible
- Social distancing will be encouraged at all times and students will be instructed on appropriate hygiene practices and protocols.
- Facial coverings will be **required for all students grades PK-12 and all Forsyth staff. Facial coverings are still required for anyone who has been vaccinated for COVID-19.** Facial coverings will be provided for all students and staff. Students and staff may use a facial covering of their own.
- Facial coverings will be required at any time a student cannot achieve social distance. Facial coverings are not required when normal school procedures are taking place and students and staff can maintain social distance. For example: Students will wear masks during hallway travel and transition time but when in the classroom and can social distance they do not have to have them on.
- Face shields will not be acceptable as facial coverings. This is based on CDC quarantine guidelines.
- Non-essential visitors will be limited. Only visitors related to instruction will be allowed. Therefore, we are unable to host guests to eat lunch/breakfast with students, volunteers, mentors, etc. We will re-evaluate this monthly.
- Class meetings will be held only when social distancing may be achieved. No building wide assemblies will be held unless they are in a space where social distance may be maintained. This will be re-evaluated monthly.
- Field trips will be limited to events where our students are the only groups in attendance. This protocol will be re-evaluated monthly.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizer will be available and frequently encouraged.

Level 3: Blended Learning (Orange Level)

- Classes may take place online for one or more days due to a rapid increase in number of local cases and/or higher than normal absence rates due to COVID-19
- If classes take place online we will follow the Emergency Alternative Methods of Instruction Plan
- Restrictions on school activities will be in place
- Capacity and attendance limits may be established for events or school activities

Level 4: At-Home Learning (Red Level)

- All classes are online and will follow the district's Emergency Alternative Methods of Instruction plan
- Classwork done independently and required for grades/credit
- School buildings will be closed and only designated staff can enter
- All activities will be canceled or rescheduled



Forsyth R-III School District Facial Covering Protocols

Our primary goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff and community. Our efforts have been defined based on recommendations of state and local health departments and the CDC. Guidance will evolve as new information and recommendations become available.

- A facial covering is considered a device that covers the nose and mouth. A disposable mask, a cloth mask, or gator are all considered appropriate facial coverings. Any facial coverings worn should only depict school appropriate content.
- Based on the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19 and CDC guidelines, we have extended the facial covering recommendation to include all students and staff.
- All students in grades PK-12 are recommended to wear a facial covering per CDC guidelines.
- When students are properly masked it assists in protecting students and staff from quarantine.
- All students and staff will be required to wear a facial covering when riding a school bus.
- Disposable masks will be provided upon request for both students and staff members.
- The district will re-evaluate our facial covering protocol monthly.

These protocols may change at any time under the guidance of our local health department and/or CDC recommendations.



Forsyth R-III School District

Return to Learn

Forsyth Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, staff and community. The information in this plan is based on recommendations from state and local health departments as well as the CDC. **Forsyth Schools is committed to returning to fully seated in-person learning on August 24th.**

FACIAL COVERINGS & HYGIENE

- All Forsyth staff and students are **recommended** to wear a facial covering in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. However, they are NOT required when at recess, P.E., consuming food/beverage, **or anytime that students are ABLE TO PROPERLY SOCIAL DISTANCE.**
- Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout all school buildings. All students and staff will be encouraged to sanitize when they enter and before they leave each day.
- Students and staff will be allotted time to frequently wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

TRANSPORTATION

- All staff and students are required to wear a facial covering on buses. **(Federal Rule)**
- Buses will be disinfected after each route.
- **Parents are encouraged to drop off/pick up their student if possible to decrease the number of students on the school bus.**
- Students will have assigned seats.
- Members of same households will be asked to sit together.



HEALTH PROTOCOLS

- Health services staff will evaluate any student or staff member showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students/staff will be sent home if they exhibit two or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that are not otherwise explained.
- Students/staff will only be allowed to return to school **if they are fever free for 24 hours**, or with a doctor's note, or after 10 days of quarantine.
- **Students or staff who are fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms.**

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Desks will be arranged in a way that allows for the most social distancing possible in the space provided.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized when possible.
- Parents are expected to drop students in the drop off areas, as visitors inside the building will be restricted.
- Field trips, assemblies, and large gatherings will be modified to meet social distancing guidance.



If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Taney County Health Department will be notified. Targeted disinfecting will take place. Communication and re-entry will be determined based on guidance from the Taney County Health Department with the intent to resume school the following day.

Updated August 9, 2021



Forsyth R-III School District Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation Strategy	Example Responses
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC, city ordinances and/or Taney County Health Department guidelines • Mask mandatory on district provided transportation (Federal Mandate) • Masks recommended for all students and staff
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC guidelines • Distancing procedures in place within buildings • Barriers, routing, and minimum distancing
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC • Taught and reinforced • Sanitizer and tissue provided
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC • Modified classroom layouts • Increased cleaning for high-touch surfaces • Bottle fill stations installed and water bottles provided for students and staff
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC • Contact tracing by LEA • Contact tracing reported to TCHD
Diagnostic and screening testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home screening by parents and staff • Testing provided onsite • Testing available at TCHD or clinic
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with TCHD for vaccination opportunities for staff and students • Share information on vaccination clinics with staff and students
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodations as necessary or as mandated by IEP and/or 504

Ensuring Interventions Meet Student's Needs



Teachers, staff, and administrators will monitor and observe students

(as well as colleagues) for possible social, emotional, or mental needs and refer to the counselor and/or health office as needed.

The counseling and/or health office will utilize supplemental resources such as Burrell Health and Jordan Valley Health Clinic as needed.

Parents and families are encouraged to monitor and observe at home (especially during any interruptions of in-person instruction) for social, emotional, and mental health needs and contact the appropriate building counseling and/or health office as needed.

This plan available in other languages. Please contact the district for assistance.

Forsyth R-III Schools

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