

ReopenWithLove 2.0

Fall Reopening Plan for Approval by the Richmond City School Board

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ReopenWithLove 2.0 – 5 Key Priorities

- Extend grace and love to all students, staff, and families as we transition back to in-person instruction.
- Protect the health and safety of all students and staff – including their mental health.
- Provide a 5-day/week in-person learning option for ALL RPS students.
- Provide a 5-day/week virtual option for ALL RPS students.
- Communicate extensively with our families and staff to ensure they have all the information they need to make the best possible decisions.

Part I

Academic Options

In-Person Option: 5 Days/Week

Who	Available to all PK-12 students
What	5 days a week of in-person instruction
Flexibilities	PK-8 families who select this option would only be able to change to virtual at the end of a quarter; 9-12 families would only be able to do so at the end of the first semester.
Other Key Information	Based on family feedback and additional analysis of existing research, we no longer recommend a hybrid option (A/B day or A/B week) at all. There is a great deal of data indicating that the hybrid approaches employed this year by other districts around the country were neither academically effective nor materially safer. We believe we will be able to meet the CDC's 3-foot distancing guidance in most cases, and will have many other mitigation strategies in place to compensate for when we cannot. On balance, we feel strongly that the best approach for next year is to offer 5 days a week of in-person instruction. In addition, per recent General Assembly action, this is now required by Virginia law.

Virtual Option: 5 Days/Week

Who	Available to all PK-12 students
What	PK-5: RPS Virtual Academy (RVA) – First day would be September 8 6-12: VDOE Virtual Virginia – First day would be August 24
Flexibilities	PK-8 families who select this option would only be able to change to in-person at the end of a quarter; 9-12 families would only be able to do so at the end of the first semester.
Other Key Information	<p>RPS Virtual Academy (RVA) – To avoid significant disruption to our schools, the Administration is proposing that we temporarily add new elementary positions to our budget (using federal dollars) to staff our PK-5 virtual academy. While the positions would be new, current RPS teachers could apply to teach in the virtual academy, much as they would apply to teach at another school within the division.</p> <p>Virtual Virginia – This is a public, online program run by the Virginia Department of Education. Students enrolled in this program count towards a division’s official ADM, meaning there is no loss of per-pupil funding. There is a tuition fee, however, which the division pays on a sliding scale based on its LCI. For RPS, the cost would be \$350/course for high school and middle school students.</p>

Additional Information About Virtual Virginia



History

The [Virginia Department of Education](#) has a long history in providing distance-learning opportunities for its middle and high school students. Beginning in the 1980s, the Virginia Satellite Education Network (VSEN) offered AP and world language courses via satellite television to students throughout Virginia. VSEN's primary mission was to serve students in rural and underserved regions by providing courses that were unavailable because of a lack of highly qualified local instructors for those courses or because student enrollment would be too low to offer the courses locally. Thousands of students in Virginia and across the nation successfully completed courses through the VSEN program.

In the mid-2000s, VDOE added web-based course delivery via the Virtual Virginia Advanced Placement School (VVAPS). Shortly thereafter, VDOE decided to fully embrace online education and merged the VSEN and VVAPS programs to form Virtual Virginia.

Mission

Virtual Virginia is a program of the Virginia Department of Education serving students in Virginia schools by providing flexible options for the diverse educational needs of students and their families. As a partner of Virginia public school divisions, the Virtual Virginia program offers equal access to a Complementary Program of online courses for students, an Outreach Program offering digital content for teachers to use with their students in blended delivery, and a Professional Learning Program for educators of all levels.

Part II

Health and Safety

Overview

This document provides guidance on the implementation of key mitigation strategies as a way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission for students in staff during in-person learning in the 2021-22 school year. The recommendations are based on current guidelines and information available from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health, and therefore are subject to change.

The recommendations below are for all RPS schools. Each school will also create a health/safety plan that reflects the unique context of their building (layout, grade level, etc.) and this will be shared with families prior to the start of school.

The combined use of the following health and safety measures is critical for the health and safety of the RPS community:

- Daily symptom checking
- Supportive Care Spaces
- Masks
- Hand washing/sanitizing
- Social/physical distancing
- HVAC/air quality
- Cleaning protocols
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Daily Symptom Screening

Daily Symptom Checking – Daily symptom screening highlights each member of RPS community’s role in checking their symptoms before coming to school/work.

Daily Symptom Check (Prior to Arrival at School)

- Before leaving home, all staff and students will answer the CDC screening questions about how they feel/assessment of possible COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students or staff who answer yes to any of the screening questions should not attend school in-person.
- RPS will begin a comprehensive awareness campaign about the health questions/symptoms of COVID-19 (see Appendix A).

Symptom Screening (for Staff and Visitors via “Raptor”)

- Raptor is RPS’s daily login system in each school’s main office (for staff and visitors). RPS has upgraded Raptor to include COVID symptom screening questions (see Appendix A).
- Visitors and staff who enter the main office to sign in will maintain social distancing guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer (and gloves, if desired), will be available near the computer, given frequent use.
- Plexiglass has been installed in all front offices to minimize direct contact between office staff and visitors.

Supportive Care Spaces

Supportive Care Spaces – Students that present with signs/symptoms of infectious illness (including COVID-19) will be isolated from other students in staff in an effort to minimize transmission.

- The school nurse will evaluate the student in the school's clinic using COVID-19 Health Assessment form; all assessments will be charted in the student's electronic health chart.
- After initial assessment the student will be referred to the supportive care room if they are displaying additional COVID-19 symptoms. School nurses will continue to follow RPS school exclusion guidelines for students and staff while being cognizant of COVID-19 signs/symptoms.
 - Parents/caregivers will be notified of a student's illness to make arrangements for pick up; time in the supportive care room should be as brief as possible
 - If a student/staff member is exhibiting signs of severe illness, emergency services will be called.
 - Supportive care rooms will be cleaned/disinfected after use.

Masks

Masks – Each day, all students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face mask while in an RPS building (school or central office). Face shields, gators or bandanas alone are not allowed. Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

- Masks must be worn, even if an individual is alone in a room and/or more than the required distance from another person.
- If a staff member, student, or visitor does not have a face mask, RPS will provide one.
- Specialized face coverings (face shields, clear masks) will be available/used in unique instructional instances (for example, for speech pathologists, students with hearing loss, or during phonics instruction - all where seeing the mouth is key) and for students/staff with special health circumstances. Wearing a face shield in addition to a mask may be considered, but wearing a face shield alone is not a substitute for a mask.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing – Hand hygiene remains one of the most important practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Every classroom as well as common areas (entry, office, library, etc.) has a wall mounted hand sanitizing station.
- Students will sanitize and/or wash hands every two hours and prior to meal consumption.
- Bathroom/classroom sink supplies will be monitored throughout the day to ensure appropriate supplies are available.
- Touchless paper towel and soap dispensers will be installed in all bathrooms.
- Signage for proper hand washing will be displayed in every bathroom (as well as and social distancing signs).
- All RPS bathrooms will have applicable plumbing, mechanical, electrical, and general contractor work completed. Please see the RPS Reopening Dashboard for completion status by school/division.

Social/Physical Distancing

Social/Physical Distancing – Classroom layout will be modified to support the physical distancing between students of at least 3 feet to the greatest extent possible. Adults should remain 6 feet apart from other adults and students to the greatest extent possible.

Preschool

- Given there are not individual desks in preschool, markings will be made on group tables and on the floor to support distancing.
- Student use of centers may be limited.
- Cots used during naptime will be distanced. Cots will be labeled with student names and cleaned after each use.
 - Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom.
 - Whenever possible, students will have their own instructional materials.
 - Tables and other high touch classroom surfaces will be cleaned after school each day.

Social/Physical Distancing (continued)

Elementary Schools

- Student desks should face forward in the same direction to minimize face-to-face contact.
- Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom.
- Whenever possible, students will have their own instructional materials.
- If classes have group bathroom breaks, social distancing guidelines will be in place.
- Desks and other high touch classroom surfaces will be cleaned after school each day.

Middle and High Schools

- Student desks should face forward in the same direction to minimize face-to-face contact.
- Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom.
- Whenever possible, students will have their own instructional materials.
- Desks and other high touch classroom surfaces will be cleaned after school each day.

Student Grouping

- Group desks, when used, will be marked to ensure distancing.
- Use of communal spaces (cafeteria, playground, etc.) will be staggered to support social distancing (based on group size).

Social/Physical Distancing (continued)

Outdoor Recess

- Students must continue to wear a mask during recess.
- Hand hygiene should occur before and after recess.
- The nature of recess can make social distancing more challenging. Activities should avoid close contact and encourage independent play when possible.
- Outdoor playground equipment and natural play areas are not easily wiped down after each use.

Student Meals

- Students will sanitize and/or wash their hands every two hours and prior to meal consumption.
- Students must only remove their mask while eating and then put it back on immediately after and while moving about.
- Students should be aware of a safe place to put their mask while eating.
- Per normal Student Nutrition Services protocol, staff should wear gloves when assisting students with meals.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at all cafeteria entrances and food distribution areas.
- Children will eat in a combination of the classroom and cafeteria to support greater distancing; plans will be created for each individual school and may require additional lunch monitors.
- Large waste receptacles will be placed outside of the classrooms along the hallway for discarding trash.

Social/Physical Distancing (continued)

Dismissal

- Schools will develop dismissal procedures that support distancing based on school size/layout and modes of transportation.

Transportation

- RPS will provide transportation to all students who need it; distancing will occur to the extent possible with the exception of children from the same house who can sit more closely;. Families maintain the option, however, to transport their child to school, if preferred.
- Social distancing guidelines should be followed at the bus stop area.
- Air filtration will installed in all school buses.
- Any individual riding the bus must wear a face mask.
- Buses will be loaded from back to front (and unloaded from front to back) with consideration to placement of younger children.
- Windows should be opened (weather permitting) to allow for additional airflow.
- Staggered arrival and departure times will be established to accommodate for smaller bus loads and support distancing at arrival.
- Before and after care may be required to allow for established staggered arrival and departure times.
- Buses will be cleaned with a specified cleaning protocol after each use.

HVAC/Air Quality

HVAC/Air Quality – All RPS buildings will have air quality levels that meet ASHRAE’s guidelines for safety.

- Carrier OptiClean HEPA Filtration Air Scrubber will be placed in all classrooms and common areas.
- HVAC preventative maintenance for all schools will occur including upgrade in air filters and completing any repair work identified. Please see the RPS Reopening Dashboard for completion status by school/division.
- We are assessing the state of classroom windows and what adjustments are possible, but want to clarify that division-wide window replacement is not feasible, either financially or in terms of the time such an effort would take.

Contact Tracing/Positive Cases

Contact Tracing/Positive Cases – RPS works in collaboration and under the direction of the Richmond City Health District (RCHD) to perform case investigation and contact tracing of all positive and probable (by test) cases of COVID-19. Plan(s) of action will vary on a case-by-case basis.

- Families/staff should communicate positive COVID-19 cases to RPS (RPS will also learn of positive cases from VDH). RPS will communicate all confirmed COVID-19 cases to VDH and will begin/assist with contact tracing and case investigation.
- Based on case investigation, close contacts (which may be from transportation, class, or other activities) will be identified and will be provided with quarantine instructions, as applicable, and advisement on symptom monitoring.
- The definition of a close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period. The definition of a close contact applies regardless of whether either person was wearing a mask.
- Students sitting less than 6 feet next to another student or person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more should quarantine at home and be referred for testing.
 - The school and RPS community will be informed of positive cases of students and staff.
 - RPS will follow CDC and VDH guidance for cleaning, which may, at times, require school closure.

Quarantine/Closure

Quarantine – Quarantine will be used for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms. Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of VDH about when it is safe for them to be around others.

- If a teacher tests positive, and quarantine is recommended, a substitute will lead the class during the teacher's absence. If the teacher is asymptomatic and wishes to continue teaching, they will have the opportunity to do so from home (this is not required, only offered as an option).
- If a staff member tests positive, and quarantine is recommended, coverage will be secured, as appropriate/available, per current RPS substitute pools.
- If a student needs to quarantine, asynchronous work will be provided and virtual options will be made available, as possible.
- If a whole class needs to quarantine, the class will shift to virtual instruction (similar to our current model). RPS remains a 1:1 division and hotspots will continue to be provided, as needed. The teacher, or a substitute, will continue instruction virtually, for the duration of the quarantine. *Note that this is different than the RPS Virtual Academy.*

Closure – Despite careful planning and consistent implementation of prevention strategies, some situations (levels of community transmission with school-specific factors, such as implementation of prevention strategies and the number of cases among students, teachers, and staff) may require RPS to temporarily close schools or parts of a school (such as a class, cohort, or grade level) to in-person instruction, in consultation with VDH.

Appendix A: COVID-19 Symptoms/Screening Questions

- Individuals may report with a wide-range of COVID-19 symptoms from mild symptoms to severe illness (and in some cases, individuals may be asymptomatic). Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. This list does not include all possible [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Each day, prior to leaving home, students and staff should ask themselves if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills (fever of 100.4 degrees or higher)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- If a student/staff member answers yes to any of the questions above, they should stay home from work/school that day, monitor their symptoms, and contact a medical professional, as appropriate.

Appendix A: COVID-19 Symptoms/Screening Questions

- Students that present with these symptoms during the day will be evaluated by the school nurse and, in most cases, sent home and caregivers will be advised to seek testing and or further medical evaluation. School nurses will use the [*When Should a Child Stay Home From School and/or Child Care?*](#) guide provided by the Virginia Department of Health for up-to-date guidance.
- If a staff member experiences COVID-like symptoms while at school/work, the staff member should notify their administrator/supervisor and the school nurse. The school nurse can complete an additional assessment, if desired (and if the staff member is at a school site). If the school nurse determines the staff member is symptomatic of a potential COVID-19 infection, they will contact the building administrator/supervisor who will then determine coverage so that the staff member can leave the building. Staff members are then strongly encouraged to contact their healthcare provider to report their symptoms and request a COVID-19 test.

Part III

Engagement

Engagement Plan Goals

As we prepare to welcome students and staff back into school buildings this fall, RPS is committed to engaging all stakeholders so every RPS family feels informed and supported for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Our goals are to ensure that all RPS families:

- Understand the in-person and virtual options for instruction and feel informed to make the decision that is best for their children;
- Feel confident in knowing that the health and well-being of our students, staff and families is our number one priority; and
- Receive relevant and timely information that is accessible and family-friendly.

Division Engagement & Outreach Strategies

Strategy	Description
Welcome Back Letter & Family Checklist	Families will receive a Welcome Back Letter that includes a reopening checklist and outlines key information for the start of the school year so that families have a step-by-step guide to use as they prepare to return to school for both virtual and in-person options.
Video and One Pagers	The division will create a series of instructional videos and flyers that will explain health and safety protocols for reopening.
Community Walks	Family Liaisons will ensure that all families have access to information and resources through home visits and strategic community walks.
Mobile Community Conversations	Family Liaisons will be present at various community locations to share reopening information and hear from families.
Regional Community Conversations	In partnership with members of the Richmond health community, RCCs will be held virtually for each region. All RCCs will include language interpretation services.

Division Engagement & Outreach Strategies (continued)

Strategy	Description
Stakeholder Engagement	<p>A variety of community stakeholders will be included in the reopening process to help provide information to families. These groups will work with the hub teams to participate in collaborative neighborhood-based events: They include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Advisory Council ● Parent Advisory Council ● Student Advisory Council ● Interfaith Advisory Council ● Community Partner Advisory Council ● Latino Identity Task Force ● Reopening Committee
Division Outreach Platforms	<p>The RPS division outreach platforms, including the divisions website, social media, and RPS Direct will be updated daily to include the most current information for reopening. Mass notifications with important updates and announcements will also be sent through Remind.</p>
Family Support Line	<p>The Family Support Hotline will continue to be a resource for all families to call if they have questions or need information about reopening. Bilingual operators will be available.</p>

School-Based Engagement & Outreach Strategies

Strategy	Description
School Community Conversations	Opportunities for families to join virtual meetings to ask questions and to hear information from school leaders that is specific and relevant to each school community.
Walk-Up or Drive-Through Summer Welcome Back	Low-contact opportunities for families who are able to walk or drive-by to meet staff and pick up back-to-school materials.
Principal Welcome Letter	Principals will develop a welcome letter and message that provides families with a high-level overview of reopening and school-specific resources.
School-Based Community Walks	School staff will have the opportunity to join Family Liaisons on Community Walks to ensure that all families have access to information and resources.
School-Based Outreach Platforms	School-based outreach platforms, including school websites and social media will be updated regularly to include the most current information for reopening.
School Marquee	The school marquee will be updated with key back-to-school messages.
Mass Notifications	Schools will use Remind to send mass notifications to their school community about key reopening updates.

Neighborhood Connections

Each Family Liaison will become embedded in a specific neighborhood where they will serve as an expert on resources that build upon existing assets of each community to support families. Each morning, Family Liaisons will be present at various meal distributions locations in our neighborhoods to connect, engage, and share information with families.

Southside	Northside/West End	East End
Hillside Court	Gilpin Court	Oakwood
Southwood	Chamberlayne Avenue	Creighton Court
Elkhardt	Highland Park	Fairfield Court
Broad Rock	Jackson Ward	Mosby Court
Belt Center	Old Brook Road	Church Hill
Blackwell	Museum District	Whitcomb Court
Afton		Fulton
Westover Hills		

Community Walks

Family Liaisons will ensure that all families have access to information and resources through home visits and strategic community walks. The Community Walks will concentrate on specific neighborhoods each month to allow us to build meaningful relationships with families. Additional neighborhoods will continue to be added each month.

Southside	Northside/West End	East End
Hillside Court 1504 Harwood St April 14, 9am-10:30am	Gilpin Court Charity & Baker Streets April 13, 9am-10:30am	Woodville Elementary 2000 N 28th St April 15, 2:30pm-4pm
Hillside Court Rosecrest Ave & Southlawn April 20, 2pm-3:30pm	Gilpin Court Calhoun & Hickory Streets April 20, 3pm-4:30pm	Creighton Court Creighton Rd & Walcott Pl April 22, 9am-10:30am
Southwood 1200 Southwood Pkwy April 28, 9am-10:30am	Gilpin Court Hill & St. Paul Streets April 27, 9am-10:30am	Woodville Elementary 2000 N. 28th St. April 29, 3:00pm-4:30pm
Southwood 1200 Southwood Pkwy May 6, 4pm-5:30pm	Gilpin Court St. James & 1st Streets May 4, 3pm-4:30pm	Creighton Court Nine Mile Rd & Bunche Pl May 6, 9a-10:30am
The Belt Atlantic 4000 Midlothian Turnpike April 17, 9am-12pm	Randolph 1415 Grayland Ave April 24, 9am-12pm	Oakwood 1665 N 31st St May 1, 9am-12pm

Mobile Community Conversations

Family Liaisons will be present at various community locations to share reopening information and hear from families.

Southside	Northside/West End	East End
Parkway Shopping Center 6335 Jahnke Rd April 15, 3:30pm-5:00pm	6 Points Innovation Center 3001 Meadowbridge Rd April 16, 10:30am-12pm	Market at 25th 1330 N 25th St April 16, 11am-2pm
Southside Plaza 441 E Belt Blvd April 21, 12:30pm-2:30pm	Calhoun Center 436 Calhoun St April 22, 9am-12pm	Creighton Court Rec Center 2101 Creighton Rd 9am-12pm
Mi Pais Mart 5347 Hull Street Road April 27, 5:00pm-6:30pm	YMCA 4207 Old Brook Rd April 29, 8:00am-11:00am	Mt Olivet Baptist Church 1223 N 25th St April 30, 8:30am-10am
Southside Plaza 441 E Belt Blvd May 3, 11:30pm-1:30pm	YMCA 4207 Old Brook Rd May 7, 3pm-5pm	Market at 25th 1330 N 25th St May 7, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Regional Community Conversations

In partnership with members of the Richmond health community, RCCs will be held virtually for each region. Spanish interpretation will be provided via Zoom for all RCCs.

Region	Date & Time
Southside	Tuesday, April 27 6pm-7:30pm
Northside	Tuesday, May 4 6pm-7:30pm
West End	Thursday, May 6 6pm-7:30pm
East End	Thursday, May 13 6pm-7:30pm