



## COVID-19 Safety & Mitigation Protocols

### Classrooms: Spacing and Seating

- All classrooms and instructional spaces in GCPS should be set up to accommodate a minimum of **3 feet** of physical distance between students. Any classroom or instructional space that is unable to meet this minimum requirement needs to be justified and documented. Any setting that is less than 3 feet should be brought to the attention of Building Administration and will be provided to the Executive Director of Human Resources and Director of Nursing for further consideration.
- All student desks should face in one direction whenever feasible.
- Student desks should not be clustered together into groups that would result in less than 3 feet of physical distance. Extenuating circumstances, as stated above, for less than 3 feet should follow the provided protocol.
- Seating charts must be established for each classroom, and should be shared with the building administration and the nursing staff. These seating charts need to remain updated in the event of change.
  - Elementary classes that switch classrooms should maintain the same seating chart across all classrooms, including resource classes, whenever feasible.
- Outdoor spaces should be used often, especially during meal times when physical distancing might not be possible. Conditions permitting, the use of outdoor spaces is recommended for music, band, and chorus.

### Hygiene and Disinfecting

- Students should practice effective hand hygiene by washing or sanitizing hands between the shared use of such items. Shared classroom items should be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.
- Students should be provided the opportunity to wash their hands before meals, after restroom use, and after activities or transitions.
- Classroom surfaces will be cleaned/disinfected daily by custodial staff, with close attention to any class in which a possible exposure has occurred.

### Masking Guidelines

- Students and staff must be masked at all times while indoors **except** when eating, drinking, or engaged in physical activity, such as during a physical education activity. Students involved in physical activity in the gymnasium may remove their masks when 6 feet of separation can be maintained. Any student not following proper masking protocols should be reported to the administration immediately.



## School Bus Transportation

- When feasible, students from the same household will be seated together while on GCPS transportation. This will assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19.
- Each school bus driver must submit seating charts to the Director of Transportation. These seating charts need to remain updated in the event of change.
- Students sitting less than three feet (sharing a seat) from a COVID-19 positive student or sitting less than six feet from a COVID-19 positive employee for more than 15 minutes will be identified as a close contact.

## Close Contacts/Quarantine

A “Close Contact” is defined as a person within **6 feet** of someone who is COVID-19 positive, for a total of 15 minutes or more, over a period of 24 hours, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions of a COVID-19 positive individual.

**Exception:** In the K-12 school setting to include the school bus, the minimum distancing guidelines for students are reduced for the purpose of identifying a close contact: a student who is within **3-6 feet** of another student who is COVID-19 positive *is no longer considered a close contact*, as long as both the infected and exposed students wore a well-fitting mask the entire time. The exception does NOT apply to the following:

- Teachers, staff, or other adults (6 feet of distance remains the standard)
- Pre-school or Childcare (6 feet of distance remains the standard)

## Identifying a Student-to-Student Close Contact

Setting	Less than 3 feet between students	3-6 feet between students*	Greater than 6 feet between students
Indoor/Outdoor and School Buses in K-12 setting	Regardless of masking, spending more than 15 minutes less than 3 feet apart is considered close contact	<p>If only one student is wearing a mask: this is considered close contact</p> <p>If neither student is wearing a mask: this is considered close contact</p> <p>If BOTH students are wearing masks correctly and for the entire duration of contact: This is not considered close contact</p>	This does not count as close contact. Mask use is not considered when determining close contact exposure.

\*The exception to a close contact definition only applies to student-to-student exposures in K-12 settings. The exception does not apply to student-to-teacher exposures, teacher-to-student exposures, or teacher-to-teacher exposures. For those exposures, being within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period is considered close contact.



### Students and Staff Identified as a Close Contact in a School Setting

Is the exposed individual fully vaccinated?*	
If YES	If NO, Then quarantine...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If no symptoms appear, no need to quarantine</li> <li>● Wear a mask in all public indoor settings for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result</li> <li>● A COVID-19 test is recommended between 3-5 days after exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Following close contact with a member outside your household, the following quarantine periods are acceptable:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After 7 days with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5 (no symptoms)</li> <li>○ After 10 days following exposure</li> <li>○ After 14 days (preferred)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\*Exposed children, without symptoms, who recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months are not required to quarantine or get tested.

### COVID-19 Positive or Symptomatic

Students or employees who are COVID-19 positive will isolate for 10 days, starting from the date of symptoms or date of test, whichever came first.

In situations where an unvaccinated student or employee lives with a COVID-19 positive person and he/she is unable to isolate, the student or employee will begin their quarantine period after his/her last day of exposure.

### **Questions, Concerns, or to Report COVID-19 Exposure and/or Diagnosis**

Staff: 804-693-6240- Lisa Jones

Students/Families: School Nurses

Abingdon – 642-9704 – Rene Hawkey

Achilles - 642-9771 –Denise Dubois

Bethel – 693-0468 – Samantha Williams

Botetourt – 693-1422 – Amy Nolte

Petsworth – 693-1243 – Caroline Smith



**Middle Schools**

Page – 693-1031 – Tiffany Taylor

Peasley – 693-2044 – Beverly Sabourin

**High School**

GHS – 693-2641 – Donna Hartian

693-7855 - Niki Tillage