

Return to School Plan 2021-2022

Welcome back to a new school year! Carroll County Public Schools will return to full time in-person instruction on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Both the Center for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health strongly recommend that everyone wear masks in indoor settings. Carroll County Public Schools also recommends the wearing of masks in its indoor facilities. However, in an effort to meet the large majority of our stakeholders responses to the Return to School survey, we will defer to parental choice of mask wearing at this time. It is also strongly recommended that all staff wear masks regardless of vaccination status. However, we will defer to personal choice for staff at this time as well. Any student riding a school bus **must** wear masks regardless of vaccination status while on the bus as it is a federal mandate. Masks are not required at outside activities, but social distancing is still recommended. During **any** Open House event, masks are required due to the number of parents and visitors in the building.

The following mitigation strategies will continue to be in place:

- Correct and frequent handwashing is encouraged. Hand sanitizers will still be provided.
- Three to six feet of social distancing will be maintained when possible.
- Student access to communal areas will be somewhat restricted.
- Thorough cleaning of schools will continue to be maintained throughout the day with increased disinfecting at night.
- Health screening questions will be asked each morning and any students with a fever above 100 degrees or displaying any COVID symptoms will be required to stay at home until symptom free for 24 hours.
- Student temperature screenings will occur upon student arrival at school.
- Visitors are allowed. However, they will be required to wear masks.
- Air scrubbers have been installed in the HVAC systems in each of our buildings and will continue to clean and purify the air within our school buildings.

Carroll County Public Schools reserves the right to require all students and staff to wear masks if infection rates increase within individual schools or within the division at any given time. We will evaluate local disease transmission weekly and consider the level of impact to our schools. It is our goal to provide in-person learning to all students for the entire year and may incorporate mask mandates in order to maintain our goal of in-person instruction. We will utilize both school and Virginia Department of Health local data to make these decisions. We also encourage that all students and staff consider getting vaccinations when they become eligible. Carroll County Public Schools will continue to work with the Virginia Department of Health to provide vaccination clinics within our schools. Carroll County Public Schools will also participate in the Virginia Department of Health's pooled testing program in which groups of students such as students participating in extracurricular activities can be tested with parental consent to help identify any potential outbreaks before they occur.

We will continue our one to one device initiative with all students being issued chromebooks at the beginning of the year. As a result, the students and staff will be prepared to utilize full remote learning in the event of school closure due to COVID 19 if needed.