



# Prince George's County Public Schools

**Return to In-Person Teaching and Learning**

**Spring 2021**



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- Over the past year, our PGCPS family has worked hard to maintain a balance between safety, academics and overall well-being amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud of our students and staff for their resilience during this unprecedented global pandemic.



- While we have made substantial investments to implement a virtual learning experience for all of our students, we know that nothing can truly replace the experience of interacting with their educators and classmates in a classroom. At the same time, our highest priority from the very beginning of this pandemic and to this day continues to be the safety of our students and staff.

# What is Our Timeline?

**February 17** – Reopening plans announced and learning preference survey released to families (twice-a-week hybrid or full distance learning model)

**March 3** – Central office staff return to work and school-based staff can begin teaching virtually from schools

**March 10** – Coaches can begin spring sports practice

**March 17** – All school-based staff must return to schools

**March 29 - April 5** - Spring Break

**April 6** – Spring Sports Begin

**April 8** – Phase 1 Instruction Begins

- Special Education (Grades PreK-12)
- PreK- Grade 6 students
- 12th Grade students

**April 15** – Phase 2 Instruction Begins

- Middle School (Grades 7 and 8)
- High School (Grades 9, 10 and 11)

**June 15** - Last Day for Students

**June 16** - Last Day for Teachers

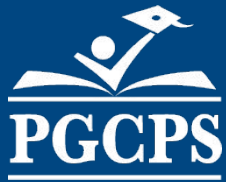


# The Why:

- Schools need to reopen to meet students' academic, social and emotional needs.
  - After prolonged closure due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, students, staff, and parents/guardians will require support to assist them in transitioning back to school. The Department of Student Service identified and compiled supports focused on social-emotional learning both in-person and through distance learning for students, staff, and parents.



- We are balancing these needs with the safety and security of students and staff.

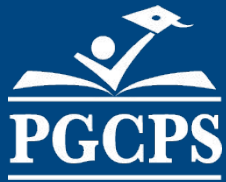


# The Resolution:

**As the metrics in Prince George's County began to decrease, we decided that we could implement a hybrid learning schedule in April:**

- Families have a choice between hybrid or to continue on full distance learning:
  - a. **Hybrid** - a choice of two-day (hybrid) rotation where students receive a blend of face-to-face and virtual learning sessions each week (Mondays and Tuesdays or Thursdays and Fridays); or
  - b. **Distance Learning** - a choice to participate in a fully virtual model of instruction where students will participate in distance learning from home.
- The two-day hybrid model allows for a 50% split by **last names**:
  - » **A - J**
  - » **K - Z**
- Teachers will teach their students who are physically in the classroom while at the same time teach their students who are at home through a combination of instructional methods.

**We believe this plan prioritizes health, safety, equity and excellence.**



# What We Have Done to Prepare:

- Each school will establish a School Based **COVID Compliance Committee (CCC)** to ensure that each school remains in compliance with PGCPS and County COVID related regulations, protocols and/or procedures.
  - The goal of the committee is to enforce COVID guidelines and ensure appropriate education for staff and students.
  - The CCC should be convened to centralize, expedite and implement COVID-19 related decision making.
  - The CCC should identify, address, and report concerns that are specific to their building, to the principal.
  - The COVID Compliance Committee should meet at least weekly for the first month and then frequency can be reduced to once every two weeks if agreed upon by the CCC.
- Each school will have a **Covid, Assessment, Response, Evaluation/Exam (C.A.R.E)** room designated solely for the medical management of the student body (this is a room in addition to the Health Room). Access should be limited and only provided to those authorized by the School Nurse.
- All staff are highly encouraged to conduct daily self-checks using the **Frontline Education mobile app**. Frontline School Health Management program addresses the health and wellness needs of K-12 institutions. By utilizing the mobile app, the principal and other designated staff will be able to collect timely data from staff to assist with contact tracing and monitor:
  - who has experienced COVID-19 symptoms;
  - who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19; and
  - who has tested positive.

# What We Have Done to Prepare:

- Directional signage regarding entrance and exit, standing placement, and distance has been designated throughout each PGCPS school and must be adhered to while in any PGCPS facility. Signage includes:
  - Social distancing
  - Mandatory mask wearing
  - Hand washing encouragement
  - Drinking fountain out of service



- Stated that face coverings must be worn by all adults and children. Exceptions to this requirement include:
  - while individuals are eating, drinking, or exercising outside;
  - individuals with a health condition, a communication or impairment, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering.
- Created a COVID Testing plan that will allow PGCPS to offer rapid and diagnostic testing for symptomatic students and school-based staff. Along with conducting contact tracing for students and staff if and when deemed necessary.



- Made available personal protective equipment (PPE) to school-based staff and students when in-person learning resumes.





# What We Have Done To Prepare:

## In each school building, we have:

- Installed hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the building.
- Ensured paper towel and soap dispensers are at all hand washing stations.
- Ensured an adequate supply of sanitizer, hand soap, paper towels, and disinfectant are in stock at the school.
- Ensured an adequate supply of PPE per CDC guidelines.
- Provided principals and Building Supervisors with all required forms or check sheets to ensure routine inspection in bathrooms and designated areas throughout the day and evening.
- Ensured all restroom fixtures are operational.
- Ensured all water fountains are turned off, with the exception of the filtered auto-fill water dispensers. Bottled water will be supplied.
- Installed MERV-13 filters in all HVAC systems per CDC guidelines.
- Increased HVAC hours of operation and /or increased intake of outside air where possible.
  - Increased airflow in buildings by opening classroom windows and running exhaust fans before/after occupancy.
- Installed barriers at all food service point of sale locations.
- Trained all Day & Night Supervisors on The Health First Cleaning System COVID-19 protocol.

# What We Have Done to Prepare:

- **Food service** will operate under the Summer Food Service Program guidelines until June 30, 2021. **Meals will be provided to all children under the age of eighteen (18) at no cost.**
  - The goal is to ensure that all students participating in in-person learning receive school meals in a safe and comfortable environment.
  - All food items will be prepackaged in single serve units. Meals will be served and eaten in the classroom, cafeterias, or other areas designated by school administration. Staff will receive support to ensure that everyone is following CDC guidelines during meal time.
  - Students participating in hybrid learning will be offered breakfast, lunch and supper at no cost to the students. Take home meals will be available and offered to students for the days they do not attend school.
- **Transportation:** Maximum number of students per bus will be one student per seat near the window on each row with **mandatory** masks which will result in approximately 21 students per run. To ensure physical distancing, the seat immediately behind the driver will always be left vacant to distance the driver from the students. Visual reminders will be posted for students regarding social distancing. To increase/improve airflow whenever possible, windows may be open to the maximum extent possible when weather permits.



# Recap...What We Have Done to Prepare:

## **Return to In-Person Teaching and Learning**

This month (March), we will welcome all educators back into classrooms ahead of our students and return our central office staff to their assigned work locations. On Thursday, April 8, Phase 1 instruction will begin with a two- day hybrid learning schedule for all special education students in kindergarten through 12th grade and for students in prekindergarten through sixth grade and 12th grade. On Thursday, April 15, Phase 2 instruction will begin for all remaining seventh- through 11th-graders.

## **Health and Safety Enhancements**

Over the last several months, we have made record investments to help improve our school buildings and provided professional development or other safety measures for staff for return to in-person teaching and learning. We have focused on enhancing our school buildings to equip each with the necessary health and safety guidelines as we remain focused on providing safe environments for all students and staff.





It is the ultimate goal of PGCPS to keep students and staff safe as we move forward down the road together as a community to complete recovery.  
And together we will!