

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: August 3, 2021  
For ACTION  \_\_\_  
For INFORMATION  \_\_\_  
Board Agenda: Yes  \_\_\_  
No  \_\_\_

**FROM:** Julie A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief of Student Services & Equity

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Recommendation on Masking

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

**SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Reopening of School

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

**SUMMARY:**

As ACPS prepares to open schools for in-person learning 5 days a week this school year, present health information related to COVID-19 is being reviewed. Based on current conditions, many of the mitigating measures used successfully during hybrid instruction are being recommended to continue.

ACPS considered the following factors when discussing universal masking:

- Substantial COVID-19 transmission within the community.
- Increasing community transmission of a variant that is spread more easily among children and adolescents or is resulting in more severe illness from COVID-19 among children and adolescents.
- Lacking a system to monitor the vaccine status of students and/or teachers and staff.
- Difficulty monitoring or enforcing mask policies that are not universal; as safe as possible for everyone involved.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Alexandria has substantial COVID-19 transmission within the community at present. This increasing community transmission of a variant is spread more easily among children and adolescents.

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve requiring masks while inside all ACPS facilities and while in an ACPS vehicle regardless of vaccination status.

ACPS will continue to monitor health metrics and will reassess masking guidance later in the school year.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

Northern Virginia Health Directors' Interim Recommendations for School Reopening

### **CONTACT:**

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