

# Update on COVID-19 Health and Safety Measures

School Board Meeting  
February 3, 2022



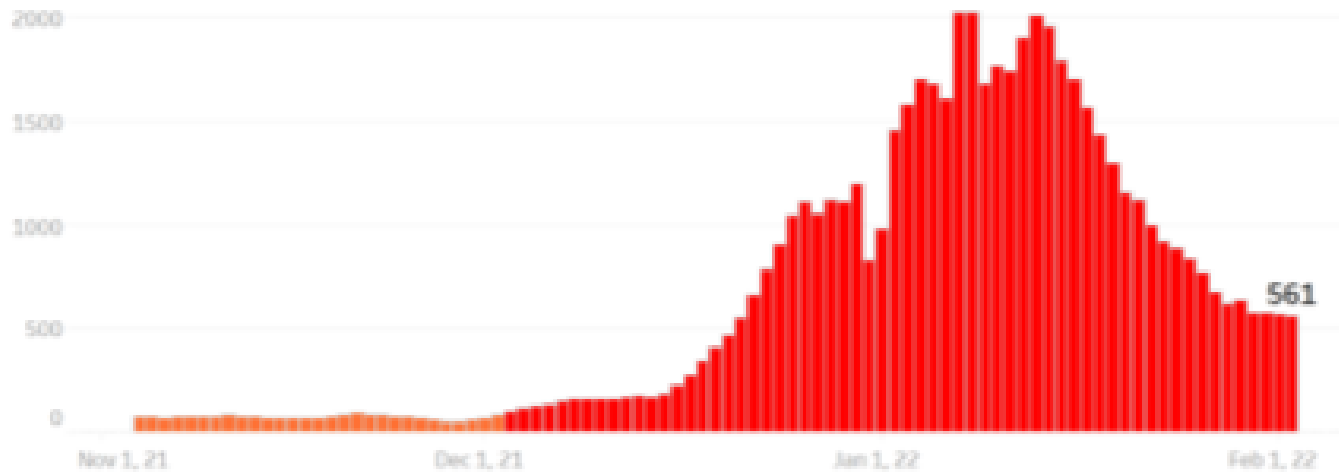


# Alexandria COVID-19 Transmission



Data updated on February 2, 2022

Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days  
Most recent 90 days shown





# VDH Updates

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-faq/#testtostay>


## Schools (K-12)

What can schools do to minimize the spread of COVID-19? (Last updated 1/24/22)

Virginia law requires that school boards provide in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year in adherence, to the maximum extent practicable, with applicable CDC mitigation strategies.

Virginia schools should select appropriate, layered prevention strategies to decrease the transmission of COVID-19 in schools. School officials, together with public health officials, need to consider multiple factors when making decisions about layered prevention strategies.

For additional details, please see VDH Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in 

Virginia PreK-12 Schools  and the Department of Education FAQs.

Should a mask be worn during school? (Last updated 1/27/22)

Executive Order 2 allows parents to decide if their child will wear a mask at school. Specifically, it states that parents of any child enrolled in an elementary or secondary school or a school-based early childcare and educational program may elect for their children not to be subject to any mask mandate in effect at the child's school or educational program. While parents and families can choose for their child to not wear a mask at school, VDH recommends:

- All persons aged two and older, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks indoors in public settings when community level of transmission is substantial or high
- People who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines are recommended to wear a mask indoors in public settings regardless of the level of community transmission
- People wear a mask when they return to school on days 6-10 following a 5-day isolation or quarantine period\*
- People who are exposed but do not have to quarantine (e.g., students who are up to date or if aged 12-17 and completed the primary series) wear a mask for 10 days
- Schools review the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry Standard for any applicable mask requirements for teachers and staff

\*Following a 5-day isolation or quarantine period, parents have a choice to either send their child back to school wearing a mask on days 6-10 or to keep their child home for 10 days.



# Mitigating Measures

- **Universal masking** in all ACPS buildings and vehicles
- **Weekly screening testing** at every school for students and staff
- **Daily testing** for athletes & reinstating mask wearing during practices and competition
- High percentage of **vaccinated staff** members
- High percentage of **vaccinated secondary students**
- **Ventilation measures** in all buildings (ex: HEPA purifiers)
- **Handwashing stations**
- **Vaccine availability**



# Testing Update

- **ViSSTA**
  - Met with new vendor
  - Received the VDH MOU 2/2 and VDH contract with vendor
- **Test to Stay Pilot**
  - Updated guidance **received 2/1** <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-faq/#testtostay>
  - VDH has mailed testing kits to ACPS
- **Day 6 Return Testing of Individuals who Tested Positive**
  - 8,000 tests have been ordered, additional CNA support secured for schools

**Will continue Curative weekly testing**



# Test to Stay: Updated FAQ

*When should the rapid test be administered? Who administers the test?*  
(Last updated 1/21/2022)

Students should take a test either in the morning before starting in-person instruction, or the evening before (ideally after 7pm). The test must be negative to attend school. It is preferred to use an at-home proctored rapid test, such as the eMed Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen At Home Test Kit. In this case, the proctor is the online eMed Certified Guide, who has received a rigorous training and testing certification.

If the school has the resources to perform testing at school, rapid testing may be performed upon arrival at the school if the child is driven to school by a parent/guardian and does not ride a school bus. **If necessary**, schools may consider allowing students who will test in the morning at school to ride the bus. A [federal order](#) requires all individuals riding public transportation to wear a mask, including students riding the school bus. All students riding the bus should be physically distanced (> 3 feet).



# Test to Stay: Updated FAQ

*Why are students enrolled in Test to Stay allowed to participate in some extracurricular activities, but not sports practices or competitions? (Last updated 1/25/2022)*

Close contact team sports and indoor sports are [known to represent a higher risk for COVID-19](#) transmission. Extracurricular activities in which a student remains masked and physically distanced (>3 feet) for the full testing period represent a much lower risk for COVID-19 transmission. For this reason, the safest option is for students who have had an exposure to COVID-19 to refrain from high risk activities like sports until they complete the 5 day testing period for Test to Stay.

Once the 5 day testing period for Test to Stay is complete, students can participate in sports as long as they can adhere to mask usage on days 6-10, including during play. If mask use is not possible, participating in sports should be delayed until after day 10. Schools and families should be aware that team sports or other extracurricular activities, especially indoor activities involving shouting or singing, increase the risk of SARS-CoV2 transmission.



# Day 6-10 Testing

Required for individuals returning to school on **Day 6-10 after testing positive** who meet the following criteria:

- Asymptomatic OR symptoms have resolved
- Fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication
- Wear a well-fitted mask during the school day

Individuals who do not test will complete a 10 day isolation period.

Will accept test results for testing conducted outside of school

**Please note: this will not begin immediately as we are awaiting the needed testing supplies.**





# Vaccinations

- Expanding to additional school locations
  - Current school locations are Cora Kelly, William Ramsay and Patrick Henry
  - Planning pods at Charles Barrett and Jefferson-Houston
- Planning communication with families to ascertain interest in on-site vaccinations during the school day and after school
- Requesting families upload vaccination status including booster information



# Staff Vaccination & COVID-19 testing

Fully Vaccinated Staff = 2,626

Medical or Religious Exemption = 112  
*(Staff required to participate in weekly testing)*

Staff Reporting Booster Vaccination = 789

Data as of 2/1/2022



# Safety Reminders

- Consider [getting vaccinated](#) or receiving a booster if eligible.
- Please report any positive test results to your school or use the Reporting COVID email, [reportingcovid@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:reportingcovid@acps.k12.va.us).
- Have a care plan in place if your student has to stay home for any reason on short notice.
- Make sure your student is bringing home their device, charger, and instructional materials daily.
- ***Please stay home when feeling unwell.***



# Questions?

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## Superintendent

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

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