

Health & Safety Measures: Universal Masking

Special Called School Board Meeting
August 3, 2021

Public Health Indicators (as of 7/24/21)

CDC K-12 SCHOOL METRICS

The CDC have published a revised set of Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19 (reported over 7 days) in the CDC's new Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation. These indicators and thresholds can be used to assess the current level of community transmission (low, moderate, substantial or high) and help communities better understand which mitigation strategies, learning modes, and testing are recommended based the level of community transmission.

VDH also recommends that schools evaluate the transmission in school, or "Level of Impact to School" which is describe in the revised VDH/VDOE Interim Guidance for PreK12 Reopening. (www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2021/01/Interim-Guidance-to-K-12-School-Reopening.pdf). Schools should continue to implement the five key mitigation strategies (masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene/respiratory etiquette, cleaning/disinfection, and contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department) no matter the level of community transmission.

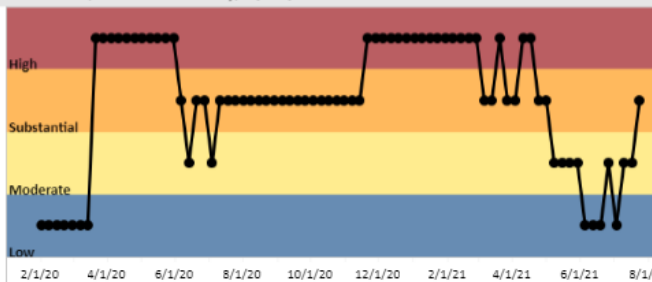
A school division's capacity to successfully implement mitigation strategies, the level of school impact, AND local community disease data should be carefully factored into school operations plans. The CDC indicators and thresholds serve to inform decision making, but should not solely dictate the decisions that school divisions make to best serve the communities.

For more information on each of the CDC indicators please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html>

Combined Core Indicator, Alexandria City, 7/24/2021

Current CDC Indicator for community transmission of COVID-19:

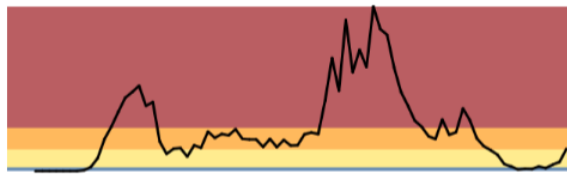
Substantial



Core Indicators, Alexandria City, 7/24/2021

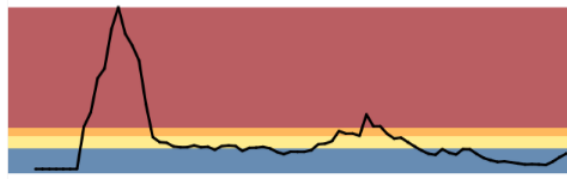
Total number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 7 days*

51.08



Percentage of NAAT (PCR) tests that are positive during the last 7 days**

3.8%



Officials can use these secondary indicators to support the decision-making process in local communities. These secondary indicators should not be used as the main criteria for determining the risk of disease transmission in schools. They should be used to support decision-making derived from the core indicators.

Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days compared with the previous seven days†

141.2%

Percentage of hospital inpatient beds in the region that are occupied‡

100.0%

Percentage of hospital inpatient beds in the region that are occupied by patients with COVID-19‡

0.0%

Existence of localized community/public setting COVID-19 outbreak§

Please refer to the Daily Region Metrics dashboard for information on outbreaks.

Considerations for Masking in ACPS

- 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.

Masking in ACPS

Recommendation:

Masks will be required while inside all ACPS facilities and while in any ACPS vehicles, regardless of vaccination status.

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

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