



“Riding the Waves of Change”

SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021 - 2022

RETURN TO LEARN

HEALTH PLAN

Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr.
Division Superintendent

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Operation: Safe & Responsible Learning

MISSION

The purpose of the Division Return to Learn plan is to provide a safe and effective return to school for all students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. This is being accomplished by realigning resources and expectations, thinking creatively about school reopening, researching and evaluating the considerations for school, and evaluating the implications of each factor. With further guidance from the governor, VDOE, and the VDH, we will continue to plan for a safe and effective school reopening.

Division Leadership

Division Leadership Team

- Superintendent – Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr.
- Director of Instruction – Alvina Matthews
- Director of Human Resources – Adriene K. Stephenson
- Director of Finance – John M. Broderick
- Director of Pupil Personnel – Dr. Lorraine Davis
- Director of Federal Programs – Morris N. Taylor
- Coordinator of Technology – W. Heath Bain
- Coordinator of Operations – Jerry Parham
- Coordinator of Instructional Technology /SIS – Timothy Mays
- Special Education Specialist – Ahnjayla Hunter
- Nutritional Services Manager - Nancy Harrell Morris

School Level Leadership Team

- Sussex Central High School – Belinda Urquhart
- Sussex Central Middle School – James Holemon
- Sussex Central Elementary School – Denise Webb

Health Services Team

- Dr. Alton Hart, Jr. – Director, Crater Health District
- Katrina Saphrey / Courtney Ayers – Crater Health District
- Tammy Pack – Division Lead & School Nurse, Sussex Central High School
- Jacqueline Collins - School Nurse, Sussex Central Middle School
- Jennifer Sellers – School Nurse, Sussex Central Elementary School

Local Health Department

Sussex County Health Department / Crater Health District

- Courtney Ayers, Deputy Epidemiologist: 804-609-5794

The health department will work with us on the following:

- Daily Guidance of COVID-19
- Testing of our Students and Staff
- Potential COVID-19 exposure
- Positive diagnosis in the School Division of COVID-19
- Student or staff member in quarantine due to possible exposure
- Tracking of virus numbers in the region
- Closure information and recommendations
- Contact tracing guidance
- Health Plan review

Communication

Communication of New Policies

- The SCPS FY22 COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan will be posted on the Division webpage, each school's web page, on School Apps and on social media channels. The plan will be emailed to all staff members and students. Hard copies will be available in every school/department office.

Communication of Positive Cases

- Positive cases or outbreaks will be immediately reported by Administrators to the School Nurse and the Director of Human Resources. The Crater Health District will be immediately contacted for guidance and direction.

- The families of children **and staff** exposed to COVID-19 will be notified and preliminary contact tracing will begin within SCPS and conducted by the Crater Health Department. Families and staff will be advised about the [Quarantine Protocol](#).

Community Response Protocol

- The Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Jarrett communicates daily/weekly with his Administrative Team. A regular meeting schedule has also been developed with Dr. Alton Hart, Director of the Crater Health Department, or his Team to continually review and discuss data for the County and Region.
- Members of the Administrative Team are participants in the COVID-19 School re-opening Committee for the Crater Health District. This advisory team was established July 29, 2020 to provide health-related guidance to school divisions.
- SCPS is following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Crater Health District, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and the Governor's Office. School Officials routinely participate in the webinars and phone/ZOOM meetings sponsored by these organizations. Communication will continue to take place going forward. All stakeholders will be kept up-to-date via the Division website: <http://www.Sussex.k12.va.us>. See the COVID-19 Communications Quick Link as new information becomes available.

Virginia D.O.E. "Virginia Learns" Guidance

The Virginia Department of Education has provided guidance on the restrictions that all schools must follow as we plan for reopening. The information from the VDOE and Board of Education can be found on the [Virginia Learns: Navigating Virginia Education in Uncertain Times](#) web page. This information builds on the [RECOVER, REDESIGN, RESTART 2020](#) information on the VDOE website. [The Interim Guidance for re-opening K-12 Schools](#) as of July 2021.

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Commented [JB2]:

Governor's Phase Guidance

The Governor's Executive Order 79 regarding this Pandemic expired on June 30, 2021 however in light of the increase of the Delta Variant of COVID-19 he is recommending that School Divisions follow the latest guidance by the Centers for Disease Control. This guidance document from the CDC serves as a

recommendation for Virginia schools to mitigate risks associated with COVID-19. Divisions should make decisions on implementing such guidance, and assuming additional risk, in consultation with local health departments and the school board attorney. The latest guidance on the pandemic from the CDC is [located here](#).

Safe & Responsible Learning

The Virginia General Assembly (SB 1303 <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?212+ful+CHAP0456>) has mandated that we offer In-Person Instruction for the 2021-22 School Year. For families who prefer as much in-person learning as possible we have learning scenarios that we will shift between, aligned to the guidance from the Virginia Department of Education.

Return to Learn

SCPS has been working closely with our local and state health experts and leaders to make sure our learning scenarios are aligned with [“Virginia Learns: Navigating Virginia Education in Uncertain Times”](#). This could be subject to change as COVID conditions evolve. You can check [here](#) to see the current level.

The Virginia General Assembly mandated in SB1303 and the Department of Education set guidance about how to open school for FY22. There are many decisions that need to be made by SCPS based on local conditions and needs. We partner with VDH Crater Health District and other local health experts to ensure learning scenarios are responsive to the local circumstances in our area. The School Division has held multiple meetings throughout the Summer of 2021 on [“School Opening 2021-22”](#) with representatives from all Schools, Departments, the Locality, our Instructional Partners and other community stakeholders. They considered a large number of factors such as Covid-19 virus statistics, internet connectivity, technology devices to send home, parent support, student meals, proper inventory of PPE, proper inventory of cleaning and sanitizing products, student transportation and the ability of instructional staff to deliver lessons on a virtual platform utilizing CANVAS our Learning Management System.

Phase I – In-Person and Virtual Instruction

Sussex County Public Schools students return to In-Person Instruction 5 days per week on Tuesday, September 7th. At this time approximately 10% of our students will be attending Virtual Virginia or Virtual Attendance via our Teachers offering in-person instruction.

- Live instruction will be delivered by our teachers and for a limited number through scheduled Zoom video sessions.
- Self-paced instruction will also be provided through the Learning Management System (LMS) for each education level.
- Students will continue to have access to their school's social-emotional and mental health resources, as well as services for students in English Language Learner, Special Education and/or Gifted and Talented programs.
- School-family teams will work together to determine whether and how a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 services can be provided in each learning scenario.
- Students that attend outside Schools will have the option to begin attending the following Schools on Monday, March 15, 2021: Rowanty Technical Center, Appomattox Regional Governor's School, BREC Academy, Believe-NU, CODE RVA, Specialized Youth Services, John Tyler Community College and Richard Bland College.

Sussex Central Elementary School

- The learning scenario for grades Pre-K through 5th grade will be 5 days a week, Monday thru Friday.
- Students return to in-person learning full-time, while following proper social distancing and health/safety guidelines to limit the spread of the virus. Students and teachers will continue to use the Learning Management System (LMS) for their education level, to make it easy to shift between learning in person and learning at home should a Parent elect to have their child at home or the child be placed in quarantine.
- Approximately 90% of students will be returning to in-person instruction.

Meals

All students in Grades Pre-K - 3 will have breakfast and lunch delivered to the Classroom daily. Students in Grades 4 - 5 will have breakfast in the Classroom and eat lunch in the Cafeteria. Students will go through the lunch line. It will be grab n go. All cafeteria tables have table shields to space students at least 3 feet apart.

Bathrooms

Students in Pre-K through 2 will use the bathroom in their classroom. Grades 3 – 5 will use hallway bathrooms. All bathrooms will be disinfected and sanitized multiple times a day.

Isolation Clinic

An alternate clinic has been established where sick children will go that is separate from the regular clinic where children go for other things such as medication. Please see a picture in Health & Safety.

Sussex Central Middle School

Sussex Central Middle School will operate In-Person. All locker areas have been cordoned off and will not be used.

Approximately 93% of students will be returning to in-person instruction.

Meals

All students in Grades 6 -8 will have breakfast and lunch in the Cafeteria. Students will enter the cafeteria and will pick up their closed container breakfast and lunch. All cafeteria tables, including in the overflow area, have table shields to space students.

Bathrooms

Students in Grades 6 – 8 will use hallway bathrooms no more than 2 at a time. All bathrooms will be disinfected and sanitized multiple times per day.

Isolation Clinic

An alternate clinic has been established where sick children will go that is separate from the regular clinic where children go for other things such as medication.

Sussex Central High School

Sussex Central High School will operate In-Person. All locker areas have been cordoned off and will not be used.

Approximately 90% of students will be returning to in-person instruction.

Meals

All students in Grades 9 -12 will have breakfast and lunch in the Cafeteria. Students will enter the cafeteria and will pick up their closed container breakfast and lunch. All cafeteria tables, including in the overflow area, have table shields to space students.

Bathrooms

Students in Grades 9 – 12 will use hallway bathrooms no more than 2 at a time. All bathrooms will be disinfected and sanitized multiple times per day.

Isolation Clinic

An alternate clinic has been established where sick children will go that is separate from the regular clinic where children go for other things such as medication.

ALL STUDENTS

- Temperatures will be taken of all students at School Building Entrances every day. If a student has a fever they will be escorted to the Alternative Clinic where they will be isolated and their Parent(s)/Guardian called to come and pick up the child. Students will be monitored for “feeling well” throughout the day.
- All students will wear a mask all of the time. Other PPE is available upon request.
- Social distancing of 6’ in common areas will be observed at all times.
- Classrooms have had desks removed to observe social distancing. Desks will be a minimum of 3’ apart with a desk shield on each desk.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available in all classrooms and common areas.
- Clear plastic barriers are in place at all student desks and tables in all buildings.
- Drinking fountains have been replaced by Water Bottle Filling Stations.
- Building HVAC units have been upgraded to include Bipolar Ionization to filter 99.9% of contaminants in the air. Individual HEPA units are available for classrooms if needed.
- COVID testing will commence soon after students return to in-person instruction.

Virtual Instruction

- Schools will provide a 100% virtual program either from Virtual Virginia or from our Teaching staff for families who are certain they do not want their student(s) to participate in any in-person learning during the school year.
- Students will continue to have access to their school's social-emotional and mental health resources, as well as services for students in English Language Learner, Special Education and/or Gifted and Talented programs.

STUDENT SPORTS

We will offer a full sports schedule for our students. COVID safety precautions will be followed as advised by the CDC, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia High School League (VHSL).

Health & Safety

What is the role of schools in responding to COVID-19?

CDC indicates that Schools, working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments. Schools serve students, staff, and visitors from throughout the community. All of these people may have close contact in the school setting, often sharing spaces, equipment, and supplies.

We will follow the latest information from the CDC regarding [“Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools”](#).

Guiding Principles:

Per the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the more people a student or staff member interacts with and the longer the interaction, the higher risk of COVID-19 spread.

CDC [digital resources help identify symptoms](#) help identify symptoms of Coronavirus. If your doctor or hospital has required you to self-quarantine at home, here are Ten (10) steps to manage your Covid-19 symptoms while home [English](#) & [Spanish](#). However, for best results, always seek care and medical advice from a qualified medical professional and seek care at an urgent care facility, emergency room, or hospital.



Attendance

The following procedures will take place daily:

Our Attendance Clerks will know daily as to which students are absent. They will begin the follow up process to a parent/guardian right away. We will make sure that our students that are absent are not due to symptoms or possible exposure to someone with the Virus.

P.P.E. including Masks

All staff and students are required to wear a face mask at all times unless they are not in their office or classroom by themselves. Face masks, face shields, gloves and gowns are available for all as they are requested.

Temperature Monitoring

The Division has purchased Electronic Temperature Scanning Devices by OneScreen Go Safe by Qualcomm for all Buildings. All **staff** will have their temperature scanned as they enter in the morning and then again if they leave the building and are re-entering later in the day.

All **students** will have had their temperature taken by a Family Member/Guardian before they get on the bus in the morning. All bus drivers have been versed on symptoms of the Virus. If a student does not look well they will be asked to ride in the seat immediately behind the driver until they reach their school. All students will have their temperature scanned again as they enter their School Building by the same devices as referred to above. Student temperatures will also officially be recorded by the School as they begin the day. Students will continually be monitored throughout the day for any displaying signs of not feeling well.

Sanitization Plan

All Sussex County Public School buildings will go through extensive Sanitizing Procedures on a daily basis. All Custodial Staff have been Certified in Sanitizing Procedures. We have an extensive inventory of Electrostatic Sprayers and are using [Vital Oxide](#) as our sanitizing solution. We also use Spray Bottles and Wipes using a product called Diversey Oxiver. All surfaces, bathrooms, and common areas are being treated multiple times per day.

Social Distancing

All Sussex County Public Schools staff are to remain a socially distant 6 feet apart at all times. Protective barriers have been installed in all areas where employees might gather as well as in employee offices if applicable.

At the High School and Middle Schools students will be expected to remain a socially distant 6' apart at all times in hallways and in classrooms. At Sussex Central Elementary School students will remain 6 feet apart in hallways. Classrooms will have 3 feet in between desks. All student desks in all School Buildings will have student desk shields in place.

Possible Exposure to COVID

- Fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine if exposed unless they develop symptoms (Fully vaccinated means 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or 2 weeks or more have passed since receipt of 1 dose of a single-dose vaccine.)
- Household contacts of a positive case may have to quarantine for longer than 14 days if they can't completely separate.
 - VDH recommends that household contacts quarantine (stay home) while the infected person is home isolating (which is normally 10 days). When the COVID positive household member finishes their isolation the household member would

serve an additional 14 days of quarantine because exposure is considered ongoing within the house**.

- **If you are able to have complete separation from the person in your house with COVID-19 (this means no contact, no time together in the same room, no sharing of any spaces, such as same bathroom or bedroom), then follow timeframe for non-household contact
- If a student has/develops a fever or any other symptoms aligned with COVID-19, they will need to be tested before returning to School and if the student has possibly been exposed to the COVID Virus, they will need to quarantine for at least 14 days. Contact tracing will be required in order to mitigate any spread.
- If an adult employee has COVID symptoms or they know that they have possibly been exposed to the Virus they will need to contact Human Resources and await further instructions, including having to possibly quarantine for up to 14 days.
- You may check your symptoms according to this information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Training

Training for staff specific to new COVID-19 mitigation strategies

- Staff Training (August 23 - September 3, 2021)

Staff will receive information and training during the school re-opening professional development days.

Training will be provided by SCPS School Nurses and include the following:

- Proper handwashing – [CDC Video](#)
- Illness prevention strategies
- Proper use of face coverings
- Social distancing expectations
- Recognizing signs/symptoms of COVID-19
- What to do if a student may be/is ill
- When to stay home if you are feeling sick
- When to return after an illness or COVID-19
- Processes/procedures for clinic-based visits
- First-aid refresher
- Bloodborne Pathogens (online module - SCPS staff training)

Student Training

- Students will be given information and educated by various methods such as videos, health webinars, demonstrations, and signage for reminders posted throughout the school building.

Nurses will ensure the following training with students:

- What is social distancing and how is this done in school?
- What should students do if they feel sick?

- Proper handwashing – [CDC video](#)
- How to prevent the spread of illness during school – handouts, [CDC video](#)
- When and how to properly wear face masks/coverings
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

Posters and signs have gone up in all buildings with regard to Hand Washing, Symptoms, & the Difference between Isolation & Quarantining.

What Staff & Families Can Do

Get vaccinated!

We can limit the spread of this virus if we get as many individuals vaccinated above the age of 12 as possible. Vaccines are available from your Physician, from clinics, from Pharmacies and from the Crater Health District. Sussex County is part of the Crater Health District. [For appointments and other information please click here.](#)

[If you have any questions about COVID-19 Vaccines please click here.](#)

Follow the 3 W's

- Wear a Mask
- Watch your distance (Try to stay at least 6 feet apart)
- Wash your hands (with Soap for at least 20 seconds)

Watch for symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms but some of the most common ones. If you develop any symptoms, please stay home and contact a medical provider.

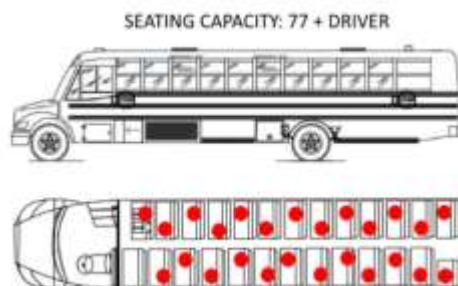
Transportation

Provide safe transportation to and from school for families that are unable to transport their own students.

Bus capacity is significantly limited due to our mitigation efforts for COVID-19. Students will be asked to sit one student per seat unless they are family members. Family members are encouraged to sit together on the bus to allow more seats for other students. This modified seating example shown below significantly restricts our flexibility to make changes to transportation routes during the school year.

- Families are encouraged to transport their children to school due to limitations to the capacity of the school bus and will be required to do so if they do not feel comfortable with the seating arrangements.
- Some bus routes may be delayed due to deep cleaning of buses between routes.
- Students will be seated on the bus one child per seat, 3 feet apart.
- Students within a family will be encouraged to sit together on the bus to increase capacity.
- Students **will be required** to wear a face covering while riding on the school bus. This is a federal law.
- Families **will be required** to conduct a daily screening, including taking the temperature, for each child before riding the bus.
- If a bus driver believes that a child may be ill, the child will sit in a seat directly behind the driver and they will notify the school upon arrival. The child will have their temperature taken and may possibly be escorted to the Alternative Clinic.

Sample Bus Seating Diagram



Meal Distribution

Sussex County Public Schools participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) within the USDA whereby every child in the County receives a free lunch.

We are under USDA Summer Rules for the FY22 School Year. We will serve all meals in schools. Door to door meal distribution for virtual at-home students is being considered. If this is possible, we will share a schedule in the near future.

Mental Health Support

Supporting Students' Mental Health

We know our students will likely have an even greater need for mental health services due to the impact of the pandemic as well as increased levels of racial trauma nation-wide. To help our students cope — and thrive — we remain committed to infusing social-emotional learning within academic learning in all curriculum areas, and to supporting mental health and wellness for our students, families and staff.

Social-Emotional Supports

During the school year, we will increase screenings and trainings around social-emotional health in schools, including:

- Social-Emotional Screening for students
- Proactive education to reduce the stigma around mental health for both students and adults
- Introduction to Suicide Prevention
- Training for our teachers and other school-based staff in how to look for signs of and address the complex needs of students during this time:
 - Integrating training in trauma-informed practices, behavior, social-emotional learning, discipline and COVID-specific health training
 - How to effectively deliver social emotional and mental health supports in a remote environment