



## 2021-22 Health Plan & Mitigation Strategies

**Updated August 4, 2021**

We look forward to having students and staff return to school full-time for the 2021-22 school year. "We know that students benefit from in-person learning, safely returning to and maintaining in-person instruction in the 2021-22 school year is a priority". (CDC, July 2021) Using recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Staunton City Schools will implement the following mitigation measures. We appreciate your cooperation in advance as we work to stay in school, healthy, happy and learning.

All students, staff and visitors in our school buildings and in our school vehicles must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. We will continue to monitor our community metrics in consultation with VDH staff as the situation evolves.

The following guidance is intended for all school events, including all after-school activities. Visitors and volunteers will follow all guidance below.

✓	Level of community disease transmission
✓	Level of disease transmission within a school or the surrounding community
✓	Level of impact to a school
✓	Evaluation of community and school capacity and needs
✓	Implementation of a layered approach with multiple prevention strategies (e.g. masking, distancing, testing, etc.)

**What families can do:**

✓	When eligible, getting vaccinated is the number one thing each of us can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19. VDH reports that 99% of new cases are those who are unvaccinated. If you are interested in getting a vaccine for yourself or your child who is 12 or older, you can check with your health care provider or find a location to get a free COVID-19 vaccine at <a href="#">Vaccinate Virginia</a> or by calling 877-829-4682.
✓	When your child is sick, keep them home. Students with a fever above 100.4 should not return to school until they are fever free, without medication, for 24 hours.
✓	Help us support your child in consistent and correct mask wearing.
✓	Take your child's temperature daily before coming to school and monitor their health for <a href="#">symptoms of COVID-19</a> .

In addition to the following mitigation measures, all schools have been equipped with [bipolar ionization systems](#). Please click on the link to learn more about how the bipolar ionization systems work.

Our school buses are equipped with [HEPA Filters](#). Please click on the link to learn more about HEPA filters.

School Vehicles	
<b>Masks</b>	Anyone using Staunton City Schools transportation must wear a mask per the CDC <a href="#">Order: Wearing of face masks while on conveyances and at transportation hubs</a> .

## Dixon Educational Center

<b>Masks</b>	<p>All staff, students and visitors at Dixon, regardless of vaccination status, will wear masks indoors. Dixon Preschool staff will work individually with our 3 and 4 year olds to support tolerance to mask wearing. Children who cannot tolerate a mask will not be excluded from preschool.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<p>Students will maintain 3 feet physical distancing to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>Staff will maintain 6 feet physical distancing from students and other adults to the maximum extent practicable.</p>
<b>Meal Preparation/Delivery</b>	<p>Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food services approaches to single use items and packaged meals. However, in order to maintain 3 feet physical distancing while eating, single use items and packaged meals will remain an option. We will have the option of eating in classrooms, cafeterias, and outside.</p>
<b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</b>	<p>Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the school building.</p>
<b>Cleaning and Disinfecting</b>	<p>Routine cleaning throughout the day will occur in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, clinics, and vehicles.</p>
<b>Water Bottles</b>	<p>We will have water bottles for student use throughout the day. Students may bring their own water bottles. Water fountains will remain off.</p>
<b>Sharing Materials</b>	<p>Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, our students can share materials and work together in groups. Routine clearing of materials will help us all stay healthy.</p>
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<p>Students participating in indoor activities will be required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p>

<b>Elementary</b>	
<b>Masks</b>	<p>All staff, students and visitors in our elementary schools, regardless of vaccination status, will wear masks indoors.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<p>Students will maintain 3 feet physical distance to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>Staff will maintain 6 feet physical distance from students and other adults to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">While participating in indoor PE, students may remove their masks for exercise when they are 10 feet apart.</p>
<b>Meal Preparation/Delivery</b>	<p>Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food services approaches to single use items and packaged meals. However, in order to maintain 3 feet physical distance while eating, single use items and packaged meals will remain an option. We will have the option of eating in classrooms, cafeterias, and outside.</p>
<b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</b>	<p>Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the school building.</p>
<b>Cleaning and Disinfecting</b>	<p>Routine cleaning throughout the day will occur in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, clinics, and vehicles.</p>
<b>Water Bottles</b>	<p>Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to stay hydrated throughout the day. We are installing additional water bottle filling stations in each school. Water fountains will remain off.</p>
<b>Sharing Materials</b>	<p>Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, our students can share materials and work together in groups. Routine clearing of materials will help us all stay healthy.</p>
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<p>Students participating in indoor activities will be required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p>

## Shelburne Middle School

<b>Masks</b>	<p>All students, staff and visitors in our school buildings and in our school vehicles must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Anyone using Staunton City Schools transportation must wear a mask until further notice.</p>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<p>Students will maintain 3 feet physical distance to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>Staff will maintain 6 feet physical distance from students and other adults to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>While participating in indoor PE, students may remove their masks for exercise when they are 10 feet apart.</p>
<b>Meal Preparation/ Delivery</b>	<p>Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food services approaches to single use items and packaged meals. However, in order to maintain 3 feet physical distance while eating, single use items and packaged meals will remain an option. We will have the option of eating in classrooms, cafeterias, and outside.</p>
<b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</b>	<p>Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the school building.</p>
<b>Cleaning and Disinfecting</b>	<p>Routine cleaning throughout the day will occur in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, clinics, and vehicles.</p>
<b>Water Bottles</b>	<p>Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to stay hydrated throughout the day. We are installing additional water bottle filling stations in each school. Water fountains will remain off.</p>
<b>Electives (fine arts, PE, consumer sciences)</b>	<p>Our students can share materials and work together in groups.</p> <p>When cooking, students and staff will wear a mask.</p>
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<p>Students participating in indoor activities are strongly encouraged to wear a mask if they are not fully vaccinated.</p>

	<p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p>
<b>Sports</b>	<p>The Virginia Department of Health strongly advises athletes who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks at all times (group training, competition, in locker rooms and on the sidelines). This is particularly important for indoor activities and high contact activities.</p> <p>Staunton City Schools will also follow any updated guidance from the VHSL.</p>

<b>Staunton High School</b>	
<b>Masks</b>	<p>All students, staff and visitors in our school buildings and in our school vehicles must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Anyone using Staunton City Schools transportation must wear a mask until further notice.</p>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<p>Students will maintain 3 feet physical distance to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>Staff will maintain 6 feet physical distance from students and other adults to the maximum practicable.</p> <p>While participating in indoor PE, students may remove their masks for exercise when they are 10 feet apart.</p>
<b>Meal Preparation/Delivery</b>	<p>Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food services approaches to single use items and packaged meals. However, in order to maintain 3 feet physical distance while eating, single use items and packaged meals will remain an option. We will have the option of eating in classrooms, cafeterias, and outside.</p>
<b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</b>	<p>Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, and throughout the school building.</p>

<p><b>Cleaning and Disinfecting</b></p>	<p>Routine cleaning throughout the day will occur in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, clinics, and vehicles.</p>
<p><b>Water Bottles</b></p>	<p>Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to stay hydrated throughout the day. We are installing additional water bottle filling stations in each school. Water fountains will remain off.</p>
<p><b>Electives</b></p>	<p>Our students can share materials and work together in groups.</p> <p>When cooking, students and staff will wear a mask.</p>
<p><b>Extracurricular Activities</b></p>	<p>Students participating in outdoor activities will not be required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Students participating in indoor activities are strongly encouraged to wear a mask if they are not fully vaccinated.</p>
<p><b>Sports</b></p>	<p>We will continue to follow Virginia High School League guidance regarding VHSL-sanctioned activities.</p> <p>Generally, students and staff are not required to wear a mask outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.</p>

## FAQs

### **1. Will I be notified if my child has been exposed to COVID-19?**

Yes, notification regarding COVID-19 exposures via letters and/or phone calls.

### **2. Can we bring in cupcakes, cakes, etc. for birthday and other celebrations?**

Not at this time. We appreciate your continued support. We will continue to monitor our community health metrics to determine when safest to allow this to begin again.