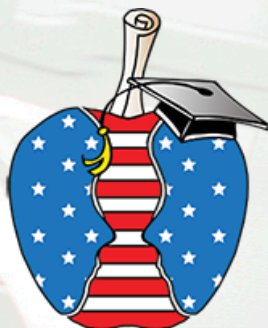
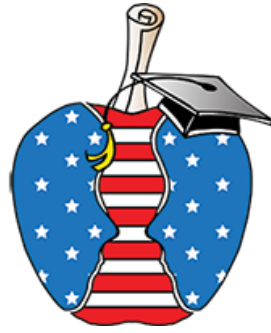


2022-2023

ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN





SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

ECPPS ended the 2020-2021 academic year in a hybrid plan (i.e. Plan B). Students under this plan had the choice to attend in-person school or attend virtually.

ECPPS began the 2021-2022 academic school year under Plan A. All students were required to return to in-person instruction following guidelines established by the district (see ECPPS COVID Protocols & More Information 9.10.21 below).

ECPPS mandated the following: masks, social distancing and stringent sanitation procedures. Information on quarantine procedures and contact tracing are available at the link below (see ECPPS COVID Protocols & More Information 9.10.21 below). As COVID numbers began to rise within the county, an ECPPS board approved virtual option was offered for medically fragile students who provided appropriate medical documentation. This virtual plan for instruction was submitted to NCDPI.

Updated 2022-2023: For the 2022-2023 school year, the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank School District will continue with a traditional school year with full in-person instruction for all students. The school day will be the normal required hours. All athletics, extra-curricular activities, cafeteria and transportation operations will run as in a traditional school year.

Below is an overview of the few COVID-19 protocols that will remain in place for 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the CDC and/or NC Department of Health.

MASKS:

Masks remain optional both in school and while riding the bus for the 2022-2023 school year. Each student and staff member can make their own decision as to whether they want to wear a mask. We are asking everyone to respect each other's decision, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. In accordance with our district policy and Code of Conduct, bullying will not be tolerated.

Exception to masks being optional:

Per the CDC, if your student tests positive for COVID-19 and returns to school after the required five-day isolation period, masks are required to be worn on day 6-10 after symptom onset or positive test result. Those students who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask should stay home for the full 10 days and not return to school until day 11. See more information below under Isolation section.

ECPPS ILLNESS EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Our goal is for all students to be in school. However, when students experience contagious illness, exclusion from school can help prevent contagion and promote the health and safety of your child.

Children should be kept home from school if they are feverish, have diarrhea, vomiting, or if they show signs of becoming sick (restlessness/drowsiness, productive cough, sore throat, ear pain, eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge). See exclusion criteria on the following pages for more specifics.

If your child cannot comfortably participate in the day's usual activities or your child needs to stay indoors and/or have additional rest, these are signs that usually indicate the child should not be at school.

ECPPS has established guidelines in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and best practices concerning sick children.

If your child becomes ill during the school day, every effort will be made to make them comfortable. A parent/guardian will immediately be called to come and pick them up. Parents/guardians are required to respond as soon as possible concerning the sick child when contacted by school staff. If we cannot reach the parent, we will reach out to the family's emergency contacts.

Children may attend with minor illnesses if it is not contagious, and it does not affect the child's ability to participate in the day's routine. Minor Illnesses include:

- Mild respiratory infections
- Acute infections subsiding after treatment
- Cold symptoms without a fever

If the child's symptoms increase at some point in the day, the parent will be contacted to come pick them up.

Disease/ Condition	If your child has been diagnosed with this disease, our school will:	When to allow your child to return:
Chickenpox (or rash suggestive of chickenpox)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily exclude the sick child from school • Notify all parents regarding possible exposure if three or more cases in a class • Contact the health department for outbreaks • Exclude unimmunized children at the discretion of their health provider. • Carefully follow hand washing and cleaning procedures 	Approximately 5-7 days after the rash begins or when ALL blisters have scabbed over
COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily exclude the child from school for at least 5 days • Carefully follow hand washing and cleaning procedures 	<p>You may end isolation after day 5 if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms are improving • Child is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication. <p>Mask must be worn after isolation through day 10</p>

Disease/ Condition	If your child has been diagnosed with this disease, our school will:	When to allow your child to return:
Diarrheal illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily exclude the child from school • Carefully follow hand washing and cleaning procedures 	When the child is diarrhea-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication
Fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily exclude the child from school if the child has a fever of 100.4 or greater 	When the child is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication

APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

The IEP team will review physician's order and other formal and informal data to determine whether any additional accommodations are required with respect to the health and safety policies to support the safe return and/or continuity of services and in-person attendance of students with disabilities. When it is determined that additional accommodations and supports are needed, the student's IEP would be revised accordingly.

Teachers and staff will continue providing increased supports for maintaining appropriate hygiene in regards to hand washing, sanitizing, and maintaining social distancing.

Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools will continue implementing a layered prevention strategy to reduce the risk of COVID in school settings. Promoting vaccination, implementing a testing strategy, ensuring students and staff know to stay

home when they are sick, ventilation and hygiene all remain critical tools to slow the spread and lower the risk of COVID-19 in our communities.

As of June 23, 2022, NCDHHS has sunset the StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit. Going forward, school administrators, staff, and families should now refer to the CDC's Operational Guidance for K12 Schools for information on how to lower risk of COVID-19 in school settings. See link below

CDC Guidelines