

Staying Safe at School During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Calvert County Public Schools

Updated November 5, 2020



Calvert County Public Schools is committed to maintaining a high degree of safety for staff and students as schools reopen in phases during the 2020-2021 academic year. This safety information is included in the “Calvert County Public Schools Reopening Plan” and is presented in this stand-alone document for ease of public access.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Department of Procurement and Resource Management, in conjunction with the Department of Student Services, continues to source PPE to ensure a stockpile to replenish supplies throughout the year.

The following PPE have been supplied to schools and offices to date:

- Adult-Sized Cloth Facemask for Staff
- Adult-Sized Disposable 3-Ply Facemask for Staff
- KN95 Facemask
- Adult-Sized Clear Facemask for Staff
- Adult-Sized Transparent Full-Face Shield for Staff
- 3-Panel Clear Barriers for Teacher Desks
- Clear Barriers for Secretarial/Clerical Stations
- Clear Hanging Barriers for Cashiers
- No-Touch Infrared Forehead Thermometer with Batteries
- Powder-Free General-Purpose Gloves, Nitrile (S, M, L, XL)
- Hand Sanitizer (pump bottle, wall-mounted dispenser, touchless dispenser)
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Floor Marking Tape

The following PPE have been ordered and will be supplied to schools and offices:

- Protective Disposable Large Gown
- Protective Disposable Extra-Large Gown
- Social Distancing Signage
- One-Way Directional Signage
- Safe Practices Welcome Signage
- Youth-Sized Cloth Facemask for PreK-6 Students (with School Logo)
- Youth-Sized Disposable Facemask for PreK-6 Students
- Youth-Sized Clear Facemask for Students
- Youth-Sized Full-Face Shield
- Adult-Sized Cloth Mask for Grades 7-12 Students (with School Logo)
- Adult-Sized Disposable Mask for Grades 7-12 Students
- Adult-Sized Full-Face Shield

- 3-Panel Clear Barriers for Designated Student Desks (such as mask break areas and those used by special populations)
- Disinfectant Pump Spray Bottle
- Disinfectant Portable Backpack Sprayer

Every staff member will be supplied with two reusable cloth masks. Cloth and disposable masks are available in schools if students or staff members do not have one. Classrooms will be stocked with hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes. School nurses have been fitted by the Calvert County Health Department for N95 masks. Additional N95 masks were ordered to ensure adequate supplies of the correct sizes are available for school nurses. Staff working with students who are medically unable to wear a mask will be provided with additional PPE, such as full-face shields and protective gowns.

We continue to work in cooperation with the Calvert County Health Department and in doing so have determined that face masks do not include “gaiters,” tee-shirts pulled over the face, or bandana-style coverings. In accordance with CDC guidelines, the Health Department also does not recommend masks with valves or vents because this type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others.

Students who return for face-to-face instruction will be given four cloth face masks with their school logo. They may wear those masks or another personal mask. All masks must be consistent with the expectations in the Code of Conduct and shall not convey symbols or messages generally accepted to promote intolerance, hate, racial slurs, gang affiliation nor depict and/or advertise drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, violence, sex, or vulgarity. Parents/guardians should ensure proper mask size and fit.

Behaviors to Maintain a Safe Environment

Everyone in a building is required to wear a properly fitting mask that covers the mouth and nose. Masks will be provided for students and staff who forget, lose, or damage their masks. Students who are medically unable to wear a mask must have documentation from a physician on file at the school.

Requirements to enter CCPS buildings are posted at every entrance.

- Staff and students enter and exit from one location.
- Staff must sign in.
- Staff and students are asked screening questions prior to entering CCPS buildings.
- Buildings are open to the public by appointment only.

Staff and students will practice social distancing. Desks will be placed six feet apart, with a maximum of 15 people, including staff, in a classroom. (That number may be lower depending upon the size of the room.) Social distancing will be maintained to the highest degree possible during class changes.

Transportation

Many guidelines are in place to provide safe transportation to school with adequate social distancing. In fact, among the greatest barriers to reopening school is the limited occupancy allowed on school buses. Students will sit one person per seat unless siblings are on the bus together. Windows and roof vents will be opened to allow for the circulation of fresh air, so everyone must dress for the bus to be windy and cool. Drivers/bus assistants will disinfect and clean high-touch areas of the bus after each run to each school. Everyone on board a school bus is required to wear a mask covering the mouth and nose.

School Meals

Meals (breakfast and lunch) will be available to students at no cost. Cafeterias and any meal distribution areas will be marked to remind students of social distancing. All food, utensils, drinks, and napkins will be packaged by the Child Nutrition Staff.

Special Dietary Needs

Accommodations for students with special dietary needs will be available once a doctor's note is provided to the school nurse.

Breakfast

Upon arrival at school, students will have the option to pick up a grab-n-go breakfast to take to their classrooms to eat. Breakfast for students with special dietary needs will be delivered to the individual student classrooms.

Lunch

Staff will escort students to/from their classroom and the cafeteria to pick up lunch and return to their classroom to eat. All lunches will be served in covered containers.

Cleaning Protocols

The Department of School Facilities follows CDC, MSDE, and EPA guidelines for cleaning supplies and protocols and updates their practices as guidelines change. All hard surfaces are cleaned and disinfected daily, with high-touch areas—such as handrails, light switches, door handles, and tables—cleaned throughout the day.

Building service workers will increase the cleaning of frequently used areas, such as libraries, bathrooms, work rooms, and playgrounds.

If a staff member or student becomes ill at school, the area(s) used by that person will be closed off for as long as possible, up to 24 hours, before the room is cleaned to allow respiratory droplets to settle. Building service workers will pre-spray the room with disinfectant and wait ten minutes before beginning the cleaning process. Multiple staff members will clean and disinfect the room and its contents. Hard surface flooring will be swept and mopped; carpets will be cleaned with a commercial carpet extractor that heats water for the cleaning process.

All school kitchen areas will be cleaned pursuant to Calvert County Health Department requirements.

Ventilation

Much information is circulating regarding air changes per hour that classrooms should achieve. While air changes per hour (ACH) is used in the HVAC design of certain hospital rooms (ICU spaces), school design is based on ventilation delivered to a space, dependent on the number of occupants in that space. A larger space like a gym or cafeteria is designed with more ventilation delivered to that space, than a classroom. A portion of that air is designed to come from outside, essentially acting like an open window, but with the benefit of humidity control.

Our hybrid plan reduces the number of occupants in a classroom to 15. This accomplishes three things:

1. We achieve the required 6-foot social distancing in a typical classroom
2. We increase the amount of ventilation and outside air each person receives in that space, above and beyond what is required by design.

3. Even though the number of people in classrooms will be cut to 15, the HVAC equipment will operate at normal levels, delivering and filtering air as if the classrooms were operating at full capacity.

The Departments of Construction and School Facilities are taking several measures to get our schools ready for students:

- The two departments are looking at existing ventilation in all classrooms to ensure spaces are designed with adequate ventilation for students and staff when they return for the hybrid model.
- Areas within our buildings with inadequate ventilation that will need to be occupied by staff or students may be candidates for portable air scrubbers to boost ventilation in these spaces. CCPS is currently pricing these units.
- The Maintenance department is checking all HVAC equipment in buildings to ensure that filters and coils are clean and overall ventilation, including outside air, is adequate for students and staff, based on guidance from the Calvert County Health Department.
- School Facilities will conduct a 2-hour pre-occupancy and 2-hour post-occupancy flush out of the building HVAC systems at all schools on instructional days.