COVID-19 Spring 2022 Plan

Progression for Easing COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies
COVID-19 Community Levels

- Changes to community thresholds announced February 25
- CDC Website--Community Transmission
- Updated once per week
- As of March 4, Albemarle County is at the HIGH level.

How CDC Measures the COVID-19 Community Levels

CDC looks at the combination of three metrics — new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days — to determine the COVID-19 community level. New COVID-19 admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied represent the current potential for strain on the health system. Data on new cases acts as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health system strain in the event of a COVID-19 surge.

Using these data, the COVID-19 community level is classified as low, medium, or high.
COVID-19 Community Levels

- **CDC Website--Community Metrics**
- **Daily Updates**
- **Current levels--3/10/22**
  - New COVID cases--134
  - New hospital admissions--9.4
  - Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients--5.1%

- Based on current levels, we anticipate the county will move to **LOW** at the official update on March 11

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Using these data, the COVID-19 community level is classified as low, medium, or high.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New COVID-19 Cases</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 or more</td>
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Albemarle County: Community Vaccination Statistics

Percent of the Population Vaccinated with At Least One Dose - By Age Group

- 5-11: 67.4%
- 12-15: 94.6%
- 16-17: 93.0%
- 18-24: 69.3%
- 25-34: 94.2%
- 35-44: 91.7%
- 45-54: 90.2%
- 55-64: 90.1%
- 65-74: 96.0%
- 75-84: 94.5%
- 85+: 88.3%

Percent of the Population Fully Vaccinated - By Age Group

- 5-11: 54.1%
- 12-15: 88.0%
- 16-17: 87.0%
- 18-24: 62.4%
- 25-34: 84.6%
- 35-44: 86.4%
- 45-54: 87.2%
- 55-64: 87.6%
- 65-74: 95.7%
- 75-84: 90.6%
- 85+: 82.2%

Transmission within schools--Low
Week of 2/28-- student cases, 48 staff cases
Attendance rate on 3/9--94% (additional 0.8% home for quarantine/isolation)
Staff absences on 3/8-- 84 (10 COVID related)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria to consider</th>
<th>Level of School Impact*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission within school</td>
<td>Zero or sporadic cases with no evidence of transmission in school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student absenteeism</td>
<td>At baseline/Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Capacity**</td>
<td>Normal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ryan McKay--Blue Ridge Health District
Goals of COVID-19 Spring 2022 Plan

1. Maintain a safe environment for students and staff
2. Align with current public health guidance to the greatest extent practical
3. Ensure changes are transparent, well communicated and easy to understand
4. Transition to an endemic state with sustainable infection control practices.
## Changes by Month/Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2022</th>
<th>April 2022</th>
<th>No Change</th>
<th>Board Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changes that occur this month:</td>
<td>Changes that will occur next month:</td>
<td>Practices that will continue for remainder of school year</td>
<td>Changes that will require School Board action:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❖ Masks</td>
<td>❖ Contact Tracing</td>
<td></td>
<td>❖ Staff masks and vaccinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❖ Quarantine/Isolation Timelines</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes in March 2022

Effective March 1, 2022
● Masks are optional for students per new state code

Effective March 14, 2022
● To more closely align with current CDC guidance, quarantine and isolation timelines will be modified as follows:
  ○ *Quarantine* timeline for *students and staff* will be reduced to 5 days with a negative test
  ○ *Isolation* timeline for *staff* will be reduced to 5 days with a negative test
  ○ *Isolation* timeline for *students* will remain at 10 days
Quarantine Timelines

Quarantine timeline for **students and staff** will be shortened to **5 days**

- Individuals who are identified as a close contact and are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines\(^1\) will only be required to quarantine for **5 days**\(^2\).
- They may return to school if they do not have any symptoms and have a negative test\(^3\) on day 5 or later.
- Masking is strongly encouraged after their return but no other restrictions will be in place upon return.
- If no test is administered, the individual must quarantine for **10 days**\(^2\).

- [Test to Return Procedures](#)
Isolation Timelines

Isolation timeline for staff will be shortened to 5 Days
If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate (stay home) for 5 days\(^3\). They may return to work if the following criteria is met:

- Fever-free for 24 hours without use of medicine
- Symptoms have improved
- Negative antigen test\(^5\) on day 5 or later
- Can consistently wear a mask and distance when around others on days 6-10.
  - If no test is administered or the test is positive the individual must isolate for 10 days.

Isolation timeline for students will remain at 10 Days
If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate (stay home) for 10 days\(^4\) which is our current practice.

Why not 5 days? The 5 day timeline provided by CDC and VDH requires that the individual mask for 10 days. The removal of a mask requirement creates risk in a scenario where the student returns on day 6 and isn’t required to wear a mask. Furthermore, it is difficult to manage the logistics of circumstances such as eating and other times when a mask will be removed.
Changes in April 2022

Effective April 1:

- ACPS will suspend contact tracing for individual cases and utilize only when there are outbreaks and sustained transmission within schools.
  - Isolation practices will remain for any individual who tests positive for COVID-19
  - Quarantine practices of household members will remain
  - This change aligns with current VDH guidance which states schools are no longer expected to conduct contact tracing on every individual case of COVID-19.
  - Change will be contingent on impact of mask policy change. To date, the conversion of a close contact to a positive case has been limited, but we will monitor impact of mask policy change.
- Modify negative test/doctor’s note requirement if symptomatic at school
Remain in Place Until End of School Year

The following mitigation strategies will remain in place for the remainder of the year:

- Maximizing social distancing as space and activity allow (including during lunch)
- Assigned and consistent seating charts in classrooms and on busses
- Encouraging eating outdoors when possible
- Frequent handwashing
- Improved ventilation
- ACPS Covid Case Dashboard
- Testing sites for employees (locations and schedules may be modified)
- Masks will be available to students and staff
Changes that Require Board Action

The following requirements are governed by Board policy or direction and will not change until the Board takes action:

- Staff and visitor mask requirement
- Staff vaccination or weekly test requirement

Timing considerations for when Board action may occur:

- Community health data
- CDC guidance on masking
- DOLI Workplace Requirements
- Context of other changes occurring
COVID-19 Spring 2022 Plan

Goals

1. Maintain a safe environment for students and staff
2. Align with current public health guidance to the greatest extent practical
3. Ensure changes are transparent, well communicated and easy to understand
4. Transition to an endemic state with sustainable infection control practices.

March 2022
- Masks optional for students
- Reduce quarantine/isolation timelines

April 2022
- Suspend contact tracing individual cases
- Modify return to school criteria after symptoms

No Change
- Keep identified mitigation strategies

After Board Action
- Staff and visitor mask policy
- Staff Vaccination/Weekly Test Requirements