



Reopening of Schools Frequently Asked Questions King and Queen County Public Schools (KQPS)



Our goal is to provide the best support for our students and their families while ensuring everyone's health and safety are our top consideration. This page will be updated regularly to ensure we are in alignment with directives from Governor Ralph Northam as well as following guidance from the Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Health Department.

Q: What is the state guidance and what does state planning look like for reopening school buildings?

A: On June 9, 2020, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released guidelines to all school divisions for reopening this fall. The KQPS Leadership Team divided into several task force groups to begin planning for the reopening of school, keeping the health and safety of our students and staff as top priority.

[Recover, Redesign, Restart 2020](#) (PDF) is a guiding document for Virginia school divisions developed by the VDOE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in preparation for schools reopening. It addresses all facets of school operations and includes key questions, embedded links to resources, and recommendations for school leaders within the reopening parameters set forth by our Governor.

Q: How did KQPS come up with the reopening plan that has been shared with the community?

A: The individual task force groups (each focusing on safety and health, instruction, technology, special populations, transportation, athletics, and family/community support) met to determine what options were feasible and



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what needed to be completed prior to school opening in the Fall. A survey was sent to the families to gather data relating to our community's needs and concerns. Ideas were then presented to the leadership team, followed by a presentation to the school board. The KQPS School Board approved the selected reopening option on July 15, 2020. See [letter from Dr. Carol B. Carter](#), Division Superintendent.

Q: I want my student back at school; HOWEVER, I am worried about my student's health and the pandemic's status. What are my options?

A: The health of our students and staff is important to us and we understand the health concerns for both. We know that we alone cannot eliminate COVID-19. We can try to mitigate the risk as best as we can and provide families with a choice of learning models that meets each family's unique needs. The July 15, 2020 [letter from Dr. Carol B. Carter](#), Division Superintendent explains the available options.

Q: Which students can come to school?

A: King and Queen County is currently in Phase III; therefore, all students can attend in person, with a staggered schedule to ensure proper social distancing.



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Q: What is a staggered schedule?

A: See chart below describing the KQPS elementary and secondary staggered schedules.

Elementary Schedule:

Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
<p>Group A (50%) attends KQPS in person.</p> <p>Group B (50%) participates remotely.</p> <p>Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting by KQPS Maintenance & Custodial Staff</p>	<p>No students report. Groups A & B participate remotely.</p> <p>Teachers: Planning, Virtual Learning Check Ins, & Professional Development</p> <p>Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting- KQPS Maintenance & Custodial Staff</p>	<p>Group B (50%) attends KQPS in person.</p> <p>Group A (50%) participates remotely.</p> <p>Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting by KQPS Maintenance & Custodial Staff</p>

Secondary Schedule- Students will be grouped in an A/B/C format: A=8th grade; B= 10th and 12th grades and C= 9th and 11th grades.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	B	C	A	B
C	A	B	C	A
B	C	A	B	C
A	B	C	A	B
C				

Q: What will my student be doing while he/she is at home?

A: Currently, students in grades 4-12 will be assigned a school issued Chromebook to keep at home and a USB flash drive. Teachers will load



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information (videos, fillable documents, etc.) onto each student's flash drive for them to complete with packets of work on their "at home" days. This same plan will apply to K-3 once ordered devices arrive (shipment date unknown). Until then, instructional packets will be prepared and sent home with students on their last "in person" day.

Q: What plans will be in place for students who prefer to continue remote learning?

A: In spite of all of the safety precautions that will be set in place, we understand that certain families might still have reservations about sending their students to school. If you would like to enroll your student(s) in a full remote learning option, please contact your child's school beginning July 27, 2020. The deadline for notifying your child's school of your plan to continue with remote learning is Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

Q: What will the structure of a full time, at-home, remote learning program look like ?

A: KQPS remote learning program is a tuition-free K-12 distance learning program. Our program uses the Virtual Virginia learning platform in Canvas to provide students an engaging and interactive K-12 curriculum. Courses utilize management software to maximize learning opportunities such as video, audio, whiteboard interaction, multimedia activities and online discussions. This is a self-paced program within the parameters specified by the state law. Students



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will have teacher facilitators who are available for students during the progression of the course.

Requirements:

- Students must have and/or have access to consistent and reliable internet capabilities to participate in this program
- Chromebook computers can be provided to those students in grades 4-12. Students in grades K-3 participating in this option will receive devices when available (delivery date of ordered devices is unknown).
- Participating students must be enrolled in KQPS
- Students will be required to complete all assignments and meet the required deadlines of the course. Student progress will be monitored regularly by KQPS and/or Virtual Virginia facility
- Virtual Virginia is a statewide program, students are required to participate in state-mandated standardized testing to demonstrate content understanding and academic progress.

Q: How will the KQPS facilitate the new teaching and learning practices in 2020-2021?

A: KQPS teachers have participated in a Google Certification course this summer to prepare them for a blended learning model. Teachers will receive professional development in August on the selected online platform, Virtual Virginia.



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Q: Who do I call for technical support?

A: Technical support information will be provided during the distribution of Chromebooks. This will include “How-To” guides and videos, device care instructions, technical support contact numbers and hours (after school).

Q: What kind of health screenings will be in place for students and staff?

A: King and Queen County Public Schools is producing a health and safety plan (COVID Mitigation Plan) to make certain that all of our schools and facilities are clean, sterile, and safe for our school community. This plan will require students and staff to adhere to regular health screenings (i.e. daily temperature checks at home and/or upon arrival to school)

Q: What enhanced health and safety best practices will the school district be implementing at all schools for the upcoming school year?

A: Enhancing the health and safety of our schools for our students due to COVID-19 is a joint effort between parents, school sites, district staff, and students. Classrooms will be provided with disinfectant and hand sanitizing stations. Our district and school site maintenance and custodial crews will install multiple sanitizing stations at each school. There will be scheduled



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restocking of sanitizers, bathroom soap, and other personal hygiene products available to students and visitors. The district will supply adequate supplies to promote healthy hygiene (Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, soap for dispensers, paper towels, and PPE). Additionally, we have increased the cleaning and sanitizing schedules for restrooms, classrooms, and frequented public spaces such as school offices and health rooms. Child Nutrition services will serve individually packaged food products. Parents/Guardians can help by teaching their students how to wash their hands properly, as well as keeping their children home when they show signs of illness.

Q: What social distancing measures will be in place?

A: In accordance with Virginia Department of Health directives, all efforts possible regarding physical distancing requirements for K-12 students (six feet between students) will be followed when feasible (e.g. classroom arrangements, minimize transitions, reduced use of common areas, etc...).

Q: Will students and teachers be required to wear masks?

A: Face coverings are highly recommended to be worn at all times, even when 6 foot of physical distancing can be maintained. Staff will be required to use face coverings when physical distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained. Face covering will be provided as necessary to maintain this requirement. Health conditions will be taken into consideration as needed to meet this requirement.



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Face coverings for students will be required at all times during the school day with the following exceptions:

- * lunch
- * recess (elementary only)
- * period of time when teacher allows removal in the classroom during instruction (while a minimum of 6 foot distancing is maintained)

If there are medical or developmental concerns that prohibit wearing a face covering, this should be documented by the student's physician. The school nurse will create a health plan appropriate to the concern, which still mitigates the spread of COVID-19.

Q: How will student lunch time be handled?

A: We are currently working on developing a lunch plan that will be aligned with social distancing expectations and USDA meal requirements.

Q: What will look different on our buses to ensure student health and safety?

A: The approved staggered schedule will help with reducing the number of students on each bus. Students will be seated one to a seat, and will be required to wear a face covering. Individuals living in the same residences will be allowed to sit in the same seats. Students will load buses from back to front (reporting to their assigned seat), and will unload from the front to maintain social distancing.

Q: How will athletics or other extracurricular activities be affected?

A: The Virginia High School League voted on July 27, 2020 to delay all high school sports until December. All three seasons will be condensed and take



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place between December and June. More information about athletics can be found on the VHSL webpage at www.vhsl.org.

Information on school extracurricular activities will come directly from your child's school once school is back in session.

Q: What can I do at home to help my student(s) prepare for the reopening of school?

A: Highlight the positives! Have discussions with your student(s) about what they are looking forward to when school reopens. As the first day approaches, share that a few routines may be different (i.e, they may be eating lunch in their classroom, they will have to line up differently in the hallway, etc.) Help them learn to independently wash their hands effectively and how to appropriately wear a face covering.

Q: What if another wave of COVID-19 comes during the cold/flu season? Will schools close again and will students continue distance learning?

A: There are several unknowns, but we will continue to keep our student and staff health and safety as the top priority. We will follow directives and guidance from the Tri Rivers Health Department and VA Department of Education to determine closure decisions in the future.

Links to COVID-19 Related Information:



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[Center for Disease Control](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[Virginia Department of Education COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)
(updated July 22, 2020)

[FERPA and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) Published by the *United States Department of Education*

[Providing Services to Students with Disabilities During Extended School Closure](#)
Published by the *United States Department of Education*

Helping Children Understand the Coronavirus:

[Talking to your children about COVID-19](#) (Haga clic aquí para la versión en Español.) An article published by the *National Association of School Psychologists* and the *National Association of School Nurses*

[Talking to Kids about the Coronavirus](#) An article published by the *Child Mind Institute*

[How to Talk to Students and Children about the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
Published by *NBC News*

[My Kids School is Closed so Now What?](#) An article published by *Confident parents Confident Kids*



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[Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#) Published by *National Public Radio (NPR)*

[How to Wash Your Hands](#) ([Haga clic aquí para la versión en Español.](#))