



Anne Arundel County Public Schools | Reopening 2021–22

Face Coverings & Safety Practices

AACPS follows the professional and expert recommendations of local and state health officials, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make informed decisions regarding the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.

Please note that public health data and information which informs such recommendations are subject to change. AACPS will make modifications in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements.

CDC Recommendations for cloth face coverings in schools

- **Cloth face coverings have been proven to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.**
- Cloth face coverings **are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings** and when around people who live outside of their household.
- **Cloth face coverings must be worn by anyone over the age of 2** while in school buildings, except in limited circumstances, which may include:
 - Students engaging in strenuous exercise in a physical education course
 - Instrumental music students who are playing a wind instrument

More information can be found at www.aacps.org/fall2021.

Health & Safety Expectations in AACPS

The Code of Conduct will be followed for all students who do not comply with these guidelines. Failure of employees to comply with these guidelines will result in progressive discipline.



Anyone, regardless of age and vaccination status, are **required to be masked at any time inside of any AACPS building** *See limited exception note above.

- Neck gaiter and other similar products are not acceptable as cloth face coverings.
- Must be worn over the nose and mouth and securely around the face.
- Before putting on the face covering, hands should be clean (soap and water or hand sanitizer).
- Face coverings should only be removed with clean hands.
- Face coverings should not be worn while wet, as doing so could make it difficult to breathe.



Basic personal **school supplies/office materials**, e.g., pens, paper, markers, tape, etc. **should not be shared**. Shared office items, e.g., copier, phones, microwave, etc. should be wiped frequently and individuals should always wash/sanitize hands after use.

Hand sanitizer and/or hand sanitizing stations **will be accessible** throughout all facilities.



Students and employees should not report to school/work if they are experiencing any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. **Students and employees with these symptoms should be tested for COVID-19 or obtain an alternate diagnosis from a medical professional.** For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from the baseline. Information regarding leave for individuals with COVID-19 or who are quarantined may be found at www.aacps.org/leave.



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Additional Safety Reminders for Employees

AACPS supervisors and in-school administrators must **follow local and state guidelines** to promptly deal with **confirmed COVID-19 cases** (www.aacps.org/safetyprotocols) that directly affect the facilities for which they are responsible. Such response includes swift and confidential notifications to impacted individuals and affiliated parties as determined by the county Department of Health.



System-wide memos regarding operational and logistical decisions are posted on the AACPS Intranet for staff.

Employees are encouraged to use the Employee Assistance Program (www.aacps.org/eap) resources to help with everyday stress, as well as issues related to the pandemic.

