

# **Infectious Disease (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Plan**

**Public Entity**

,

Phone Number

E-Mail Address

Version Date

## I. Purpose

This plan describes the implementation of mandatory health and safety requirements established by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, Governor Northam's COVID-19 Executive Order and subsequent Addendum as well as guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

## II. Responsibilities

\_\_\_\_\_ has assigned the following individual(s) to serve in the role of health officer. The health officer has the authority to stop or alter activities to ensure that all work practices conform to the mandatory safety and health requirements applicable to COVID19 as well as any other infectious disease hazards.

Health Officer(s)			
Name	Title	Department	Phone Number

For the purpose of ensuring compliance with the most recent safety and health requirements, \_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for administering this plan, monitoring agencies for new requirements, updating this plan, communicating any changes to employees, and monitoring the overall effectiveness of the plan. This person is also responsible for providing employees with a copy of this plan upon request.

## III. Determination of Exposure Risk by Job Duty

We have determined the COVID-19 exposure risk level of all worksite functions to ensure that we apply appropriate hazard controls – including training, equipment, and personal protective equipment (PPE) – to protect employees' safety and health. This assessment is based on OSHA Publication 3990. Classes of employees have been assigned to risk categories as follows:

Exposure Risk Level means an assessment of the possibility that an employee could be exposed to the hazards associated with SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease. Hazards and job tasks have been divided into four risk exposure levels: “Very High”, “High”, “Medium”, and “Lower”.

**“High”** exposure risk hazards or job tasks are those in places of employment with high potential for employee exposure within six feet with known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2 that are not otherwise classified as “very high” exposure risk (refer to page 8 of the 16 VAC 25-220, Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation for a more detailed description).

**“Medium”** exposure risk hazards or job tasks that are not labeled as “very high” or “high” (refer to pages 9-10 of the 16 VAC 25-220, Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation for a more detailed description).

**“Lower”** exposure risk hazards or job tasks are those not otherwise classified as “very high”, “high”, or “medium” exposure risk that do not require contact within six feet of persons known to be, or suspected of being, or who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2; nor contact within six feet with other employees, other persons, or the general public except as otherwise provided in this definition (refer to page 10 of the 16 VAC 25-220, Emergency Temporary Standard/Emergency Regulation for a more detailed description).

Consult the definition of “Exposure risk level” of the Emergency Temporary Standard for COVID-19 by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. Also, consult pages 18 - 21 of the OSHA document “Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19” which is available at <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf> and determine the risk level of each employee or class of employee based on their type of work and duties. Some jobs may have more than one type of exposure risk depending on the task or qualifying factors.

Work Area	Job Tasks	Exposure Risk	Qualifying Factors
		Determination	
		Very High	
School Nurses & Health Coordinator	Health Care Delivery	High	Potential for exposure or close contact may occur
School Personnel	Teaching and all related supporting responsibilities	Medium	May have frequent contact with the general public (within 6 ft.)
School Board Office	Central Office Responsibilities	Low	Limited (or no) workplace contact within 6 ft.

#### **IV. Contingency Plan in the Event of an Infectious Disease Outbreak**

In the event that an outbreak or pandemic due to an infectious disease, \_\_\_\_\_ has set up contingency plans for addressing the workplace needs as well as employee safety and health during the outbreak.

Contingency Plan is as follows:

#### **V. Basic Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Measures**

To control the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID 19, basic prevention and control measures must be implemented to ensure that all employees are protected against the hazards of infectious disease.

To control the spread of infectious disease it is important to keep up general housekeeping in the workplace. Additional housekeeping actions must also be implemented to ensure the safety and health of employees and decreasing the chances of spread of an infectious disease such as: All restrooms, common areas that remain in use, door knobs/handles, tools, equipment, and other frequently touched surfaces are disinfected before, in the middle of, and at the end of each work day. All contact surfaces of vehicles used by more than one person are disinfected at the end of each person's use. All disinfectants are EPA-approved or otherwise comply with CDC disinfection guidance. [If reasonable, name(s) or title(s) of person(s) responsible for disinfecting each area]. The employer must make sure that adequate disinfection products are on hand, safety data sheets (SDSs) are obtained and retained, and employees using the products are aware of any personal protective equipment that is required for use.

Additional precautions and actions to take are **specific actions being taken. *Check all of the below actions that apply, as well as add any as necessary:***

**Large gatherings are minimized whenever possible; staff meetings are postponed, cancelled or held remotely;**

**Employees are encouraged to maintain physical distance even when on break, as well as before and after working hours;**

**Employees are required to maintain physical distance when reporting to work, clocking in, leaving work, and clocking out;**

**Employee work stations are greater than six feet apart;**

**The employer may utilize flexible work hours, wherever possible, to limit the number of employees simultaneously working on-site; and**

**Employee interactions with the general public are modified to allow for additional physical space between parties.**

## **VI. Identification and Isolation of Sick and/or Exposed Employees**

Risk and exposure determinations are made without regard to employees' protected characteristics as defined by local, state, and federal law. Any health-related information and documentation gathered from employees is maintained confidentially and in compliance with state and federal law. Specifically, medical documentation is stored separate from an employee's personnel documentation.

### **1. Employee Self-Monitoring**

The following employees should **not** report to work and, upon notification to \_\_\_\_\_; will be removed from the regular work schedule:

- Employees who display COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, and/or gastrointestinal problems, including nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting, whether or not accompanied by a formal COVID-19 diagnosis;
- Employees who, in the last 14 days, have had close contact with and/or live with any person having a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis; and
- Employees who, in the last 14 days, have had close contact with and/or live with any person displaying COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, and/or gastrointestinal problems, including nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting.

Such employees may only resume in-person work upon meeting all return-to-work requirements, defined below.

### **2. Daily Screenings**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure, \_\_\_\_\_ screens employees on a daily basis. Employees are asked the following questions before entering any facility, whether owned or leased:

1. Are you currently suffering from any of the following symptoms – fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, and/or gastrointestinal problems, including nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting?

- a. If a touchless thermometer is available, temperature checks are performed.
  - b. If yes, access is denied, and employee is advised to self-isolate/self-quarantine at home, until employee is permitted to return to work as defined below.
2. Have you lived with, or had close contact with, someone in the last 14 days diagnosed with or displaying the symptoms of COVID-19?
  - a. If yes, access is denied, and employee is advised to self-isolate/self-quarantine at home, until at least 14 days after close contact.

Employees who develop symptoms while at work must immediately report to their supervisor and/or Human Resources.

### **3. Return-to-Work Requirements**

Employees who were themselves diagnosed with COVID-19 may only return to work upon confirmation of the cessation of symptoms and contagiousness, proof of which may be acquired via the test-based strategy or the non-test-based strategy.

The test-based strategy is preferred but relies upon the availability of testing supplies and laboratory capacity. Under this strategy, employees may discontinue isolation and return to work upon achieving the following conditions:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected at least 24 hours apart.

Under the non-test-based strategy, employees may discontinue isolation and return to work upon achieving the following conditions:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Employees who come into close contact with or who may live with an individual with a confirmed diagnosis or symptoms may return to work after either 14 days have passed since the last close contact with the diagnosed and/or symptomatic individual. This includes the diagnosed and/or symptomatic individual receiving a negative COVID-19 test.

Employees are typically required to submit a release to return to work from a healthcare provider; given the current stressors on the healthcare system, \_\_\_\_\_ may accept written statements from employees confirming all the factors supporting their release.

Actively encourage sick employees to stay home:

- Include a statement regarding your PTO program. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act Policies and Posters are to be posted in common places as well as on the employee shared IT drives (if employees have questions regarding use of emergency paid sick time, employees should contact \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ will follow state and federal guidance for return to work guidance.
  - Guidance from the employee's health care provider will also be considered.

## VII. Procedures for Minimizing Exposure from Outside of Workplace

business practices are evaluated to ensure the safety and health of all individuals. This is done on a phased approach. Beginning with appointment only onsite meetings, virtual meetings, and finally transitioning to onsite meetings with appropriate precautions when that time comes.

- Social distancing practices to be observed: *Check all that apply, as well as add as necessary*

6-foot distances are marked in areas where visitors might gather/wait  
In person meetings are to be made by appointments only  
Limit the number of individuals allowed into facilities  
Minimize face to face contact

Information is posted throughout the worksite educating individuals on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Any individual entering one of \_\_\_\_\_ facilities may have their temperature checked and/or a questionnaire completed prior to entry.

To minimize exposure from visitors or vendors: [Include all that apply]

All business partners that work within \_\_\_\_\_ have been provided this Plan.

When possible, \_\_\_\_\_ will limit the number of visitors in the facility.

Possible statement about protection - Any individual entering one of the \_\_\_\_\_ facilities may have their temperature checked and/or a questionnaire completed prior to entry.

Possible statement about protection: Masks may be available to visitors/vendors as well as appropriate disinfectants so individuals can clean work areas before and after use.

Possible statement about protection - All deliveries will be handled through curbside pick-up or delivery.

Minimizing exposure from the general public:

- Social distancing practices to be observed: *Check all that apply, as well as add as necessary*
  - 6-foot distances are marked in areas where individuals might gather/wait.
  - Limit number of individuals allowed into facilities.
  - Minimize face to face contact
  - Computer and lab workstations positioned at least 6 feet apart
  
- Information is posted at \_\_\_\_\_ facilities educating individuals on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Any individual entering \_\_\_\_\_ may have their temperature checked and/or a questionnaire completed prior to entry.
- Individual symptoms may be assessed of COVID-19 and individuals with symptoms will be removed from the workplace.
- Possible statement about protection with General Public - Physical barriers between employees and the public will be considered in high impact areas (e.g. shielding at the front desk areas).
- Possible statement about protection with General Public – Masks may be available to the general public as well as appropriate disinfectants so individuals can clean work areas before and after use.

## VIII. Training

All employees at \_\_\_\_\_ will be required to have training on the hazards and characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease. This training will ensure that all employees recognize the hazards of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 as well as the procedures to minimize the hazards related to the infectious diseases and help prevent the spread of the infectious disease.

The training material will cover the following:

- Requirements of the COVID-19 Emergency Regulation.
- Public Entities' Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan.
- Characteristics and methods of spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 disease as well as the asymptomatic reactions of some persons to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Safe and healthy work practices, including but not limited to, physical distancing, disinfection procedures, disinfecting frequency, and noncontact methods of greeting.
- PPE
  - When PPE is required
  - What PPE is required
  - How to properly don, doff, adjust and wear PPE
  - Limitations of PPE
  - Proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of PPE

All employees in the workplace will be trained on this subject and procedures. All training will be certified and recorded according to the Emergency Regulations for COVID-19 by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry.

Training Records will be certified by the following requirements:

- Employee name
- Employee's signature (physical or electronic)
- Date
- Signature of Trainer

(The following is an *example* of a training record)

Date:		Trainer:	
Employee Name (Printed)	Employee Name (Signature)	Work Area	COVID-19 Risk Level

Retention of training records must be retained in employee files. These records are located . The most recent training records will be maintained.

## Industry Specific Guidelines

### Office Regulations

- a) Assign dedicated entry point(s) for all employees to reduce congestion at the main entrance.
- b) Provide visual indicators of appropriate spacing for employees outside the building in case of congestion.
- c) Take steps to reduce entry congestion and to ensure the effectiveness of screening (e.g., by staggering start times, adopting a rotational schedule where only half of employees are in the office at a particular time).
- d) Require face coverings in shared spaces, including during in-person meetings and in restrooms and hallways.
- e) Increase distancing between employees by spreading out workspaces, staggering workspace usage, restricting non-essential common space (e.g., break rooms), providing visual cues to guide movement and activity (e.g., restricting elevator capacity with markings, locking conference rooms).

- f) Turn off water fountains.
- g) Prohibit social gatherings and meetings that do not allow for social distancing or that create unnecessary movement through any facility.
- h) Provide disinfecting supplies and require employees wipe down their workstations at least twice daily.
- i) Post signs about the importance of personal hygiene.
- j) Disinfect high-touch surfaces in offices (e.g., whiteboard markers, restrooms, handles) and minimize shared items when possible (e.g., pens, remotes, and whiteboards).
- k) Institute cleaning and communications protocols when employees are sent home with symptoms.

## **Outdoor**

Any operations in which education or activity is primarily and traditionally performed outdoors must:

- a) Prohibit gatherings of any size in which people cannot maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- b) Limit in-person interaction with outside public and coworkers to the maximum extent possible, and bar any such interaction in which people cannot maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- c) Provide and require the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and face coverings, as appropriate for the activity being performed.
- d) Adopt protocols to limit the sharing of tools and equipment to the maximum extent possible and to ensure frequent and thorough cleaning and disinfection of tools, equipment, and frequently touched surfaces.



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**Amended Personnel Policy**  
**Prevention of SARS-CoV2/COVID-19**

**Based on Virginia's Final Permanent Standard Enacted September 8, 2021**

Giles County Public Schools, in accordance with Virginia Code 16VAC25-220-40, establishes the following amended guidelines to ensure compliance with requirements of the Virginia Code to protect employees from workplace exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Self-Monitoring** - Employees are encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

(This list is not inclusive of all possible symptoms. Please see the CDC website as updates will be provided when additional symptoms are discovered.)

Employees exhibiting symptoms are required to contact school administrator and/or school nurse to determine if testing and quarantining is warranted. Should the employee be required to test or quarantine the employee must:

1. Contact their supervisor and follow normal call-in procedures.
2. Provide a copy of the positive result to the school nurse.
3. Provide a copy of a VDH or healthcare provider excuse from work.

Shall a vaccinated employee test negative, they may return to work immediately if symptoms have improved or resolved. Unvaccinated employees who develop symptoms without a known exposure should test immediately. Should an employee's test come back positive, the employee must isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and only return to work when symptoms have improved, and they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

**Notification of Exposure** – Should an employee be identified as a close contact to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they should be removed from the business in regards to their vaccination status. If a vaccinated employee is exposed, they are not required to quarantine and can continue normal work activities, but they must mask for at least 5 days (with a negative test between 3-5 days post-exposure) or mask 14 days if they decide not to test. Unvaccinated employees must be immediately removed from the workplace. Unvaccinated employees may test 3-5 days after a known exposure and return to normal work activities on day 8 post exposure or quarantine for 10 days after last exposure to a positive case and return to work on day 11.

Employees can access a free PCR test through the New River Health District by calling (540) 267-8240. Employees shall be granted access to their own SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 related exposure and medical records.

**Notification of Positive Test** – Should an employee test positive, the School Nurse and/or the School Health Coordinator must be notified immediately. Within 24 hours of discovery of the employee's positive test, contact tracing shall be performed, and other potentially exposed employees shall be notified. Confidentiality of the confirmed Covid-19 employee shall be handled in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 USC § 1201 et. Seq) and other applicable federal and Virginia laws and regulations.

The GCPS School Health Coordinator is required to report to the VDH and the DOLI the discovery of two more cases of its own employees present at the place of employment within a 14-day period testing positive for COVID-19. (<https://redcap.vdh.virginia.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=LRHNP89XPK>)

**Personal Protective Equipment** – All employees must adorn the PPE that is associated as a requirement of their position (such as masks, face shields, safety glasses, etc.) and shall be supplied these items.

Employees shall also be provided hand sanitizer and have easy, frequent access and permission to use soap and water for hand washing purposes.

**Physical Distancing** – Employees who are unvaccinated are required to physical distance (6ft minimum) in all workplace settings when at all feasible to preserve and protect the workforce and allow operations to continue.

**Masking** – As an employer, we shall provide and require employees who are not vaccinated, fully vaccinated employees in areas of substantial or high community transmission, and otherwise at-risk employees to wear face coverings while indoors or traveling in a work vehicle unless their work task requires a respirator or other higher level of PPE. The mask must cover both the nose and mouth. In some cases, the elimination of use or travel in shared work vehicles by unvaccinated employees may be enforced and employees may be required to utilize alternate means of transportation. When an employee who is not fully vaccinated must share a work vehicle or other transportation with one or more employees or other persons because no other alternatives are available, such employees shall be provided with and wear respiratory protection such as an N95 filtering face piece respirator or a face covering at the option of an employee. A fully vaccinated employee who must share a work vehicle or other transportation with one or more other employees because no other alternatives are available shall be provided and wear face coverings.

**Exceptions** (when face masks are not required):

1. When an employee is alone in a room.
2. While an employee is eating or drinking, provided each employee who is not fully vaccinated is six feet away.
3. When employees are wearing respiratory protection in accordance with 16VAC25-90-1910.134.
4. When it is important to see a person's mouth (communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing) when conditions do not permit the use of a clear face shield.

5. Medical conditions, religious beliefs.
6. Hazardous to the employee due presenting serious injury or death (arc flash, heat stress, safe operation of equipment). Employees will be required to wear alternative protection such as a face shield if conditions permit.
7. Where a face shield may be otherwise required. Shields must be cleaned daily and not damaged.

**Common Areas** – Common areas such a break rooms and lunchrooms shall be closed to employees who are unvaccinated and capacity restrictions may be enforced for those who are vaccinated. Restrictions will be posted outside of these areas as community transmission changes locally.

**Disinfecting Requirements** – offices, common areas, hallways, high traffic surfaces (such as door handles) shall be cleaned with soap once per shift when no suspected or confirmed COVID case has been in the area. In areas where infected persons have been present, if less than 24 hours they must be cleaned and disinfected, after 24 hours cleaned, after 3 days, no cleaning beyond normal cleaning practices.

**Vaccinations** – Employees are required to complete a vaccination form indicating whether or not they are vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is not required at this time.

**Anonymous Complaints** – Employees who wish to place anonymous complaints regarding policies and procedures that are not being followed may complete the following employee complaint form through the following link: <https://forms.gle/wfAaZYaKAXXDtvZa8> This form will be anonymous. Complaints will be investigated and handled according to current COVID-19 standards and guidelines. Employees shall not be reprimanded nor retaliated against in any way for reporting violations.



## **GCPS Opening Plan – 2021-22 SY**

Giles County Public Schools (GCPS) will be resuming in-person instruction on August 23, 2021 under as normal of circumstances as possible. The following information will help guide the return to school for our students and staff.

On Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, Governor Northam held a press conference where he referenced Senate Bill 1303, legislation that was passed by the General Assembly during their session this year. Senate Bill 1303 requires that each School Board offer in-person instruction and adhere, to the maximum extent practicable, the current mitigation measures provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Even though we received guidance on July 21, 2021 from DOE that clearly stated they supported school divisions in making decisions on masking and other prevention measures, DOE sent a memo out on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, that reiterated the comments made by the Governor and subsequently amended their official guidance. The most recent update from the CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K -12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, the Department of Labor and Industry has proposed amendments that will require the following: Employers shall provide and require employees that are not fully vaccinated, and otherwise at-risk employees (because of a prior transplant or other medical condition), to wear face coverings or surgical masks while indoors, unless their work task requires a respirator or other PPE. Such employees shall wear a face covering or surgical mask that covers the nose and mouth to contain the wearer's respiratory droplets and help protect others and potentially themselves.

Based on this information, as well as other correspondence with our local health department, the Giles County School Board approved that GCPS will start school on August 23<sup>rd</sup> under Phase II, requiring masks for all students and staff while indoors, as well as the other strategies listed. However, beginning on Sept. 13, 2021, GCPS transitioned to requiring masks within the school building for all staff and students.

We have continued to operate under the Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> masking requirement and will continue to evaluate data with our local health department to determine if/when it is appropriate to make any changes to our mitigation plan.

### **Phase I:**

- Masks are required on school transportation for all students (PreK-12) and staff regardless of vaccination status per federal guidelines.
- Masks for **students** within the school building are recommended for all, but are optional based on parental choice. Parents who want their child to wear a mask within the school building will need to communicate that with their child's school. If a child refuses to wear a mask while in the school, schools will notify the parents.

- Masks for **staff members** within the school building are recommended for all, but are optional for vaccinated staff and required for all others.
- Continue frequent and correct hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.
- Physical distancing of three to six feet will be done to the greatest extent possible.
- Regular cleaning schedules will be continued throughout the school day.
- If someone is sick (e.g. experiencing any of these symptoms – fever of 100 degrees or more, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, fatigue, headache, cough, nausea, loss of smell and/or taste, congestion, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, chest pain, or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 they need to stay home until symptom-free for 24 hours.
- Quarantine & Close Contact – Individuals found to be within close contact of any positive case following CDC and VDH guidelines (e.g. – within 6 ft. for a total of 15 minutes or more within 24 hours) will be utilized to determine the need to quarantine. Additionally, there is an exception to close contact for K – 12 settings for case investigation and contact tracing. In indoor K – 12 settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 ft. of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students are wearing masks and the school has other mitigation strategies in place. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in indoor K – 12 settings.
- School visitors will be limited within the schools by appointment and will be required to wear masks when entering the school building. Visitors will not be allowed during lunches.
- Isolation rooms will be maintained by each school.

## **Phase II:**

(Mitigation strategies from Phase I will be continued with the following changes):

- Masks are required on school transportation for all students (PreK-12) and staff regardless of vaccination status per federal guidelines.
- (UPDATED) - Masks for **students** will be required within the school building for all.
- (UPDATED) - Masks for **staff members** within the school building will be required for all.
- (UPDATED) – All **students** and **vaccinated staff** can indicate to their school that they have a medical or religious exemption to this masking requirement under Phase II. Individuals do not need to provide verification from a doctor or clergyman for this exemption. The attached document (Attachment A) will need to be provided to school administration to document this requested exemption.
- Physical distancing of three to six feet will be done to the greatest extent possible.
- Regular cleaning schedules will be continued throughout the school day, with additional measures added.
- School visitors will be limited within the schools by appointment and will be required to wear masks when entering the school building. Visitors will not be allowed during lunches
- Temperature screenings will be conducted as necessary.

### **Phase III:**

(Mitigation strategies from Phase I and II will be continued with the following changes):

- Masks are required on school transportation for all students (PreK-12) and staff regardless of vaccination status per federal guidelines and number of students on transportation will be limited.
- Masks for **students** within the school building are required for all.
- Masks for **staff members** within the school building are required for all.
- Physical distancing of three to six feet will be maintained.
- Regular cleaning schedules will be continued throughout the school day, with additional measures added to ensure high touch areas are cleaned in between classes.
- No visitors will be allowed within the school building.
- Temperature screenings will be conducted as necessary.
- Isolation rooms will be maintained by each school.
- Periods of remote learning may be necessary to limit exposure and enhance learning.

### **Additional Information**

- Please keep in mind that mitigation strategies may move from one Phase to another to meet safety and/or instructional needs
- COVID screening testing will be investigated and may be offered for students and staff members depending on prevalence within the schools
- Masks may be worn if individuals want to continue this practice (schools will have masks available)
- Updates to Athletics, Extracurricular activities, and other school activities will be provided when necessary
- Schools are encouraged to use outdoor spaces whenever possible, because masks are not necessary
- Again, masks will be required on school buses and other forms of transportation, regardless of vaccination status, for all students (PreK – 12) and staff per federal guidelines

Again, GCPS will operate under a three Phased approach for the 2021-22 school year. We will continue to monitor the health metrics and health recommendations from CDC, VDH, and DOE. We will also continue to work with our VDH and our local health department to evaluate situations that may arise and any operational changes that may need to be made due to increased COVID-19 cases within our schools and school division. A transition from one Phase to another may be necessary based on Federal or State requirements or based on our community and/or school COVID-19 data. GCPS continues to encourage those that are eligible to do so, to get the COVID-19 vaccination.

**ATTACHMENT A:**

Under Phase II of the Giles County Public Schools Opening School plan, I am indicating by signing below that I have a medical and/or religious exemption to the mandate of wearing a face covering while inside the school building. Please sign and complete this form and return it to your school administration.

\_\_\_\_\_Medical Exemption

\_\_\_\_\_Religious Exemption

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Names

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employees Signature