



Chesapeake Bay Governor's School

COVID-19 HEALTH MITIGATION PLAN

Updated: August 1, 2021

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Introduction

The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science (CBGS), established in 1998, serves the counties of Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland; and the town of Colonial Beach. CBGS operates through partnerships with the Virginia Department of Education, participating school divisions, and Rappahannock Community College.

Student safety is our priority as we design mitigation strategies to allow our students to safely maintain in-person learning. An essential goal of this plan is to cultivate new norms, habits and mindsets among the student and staff population that will maximize safe behavior but also manifest patience, kindness, compassion, community-mindedness, and a sense of personal responsibility to others both within our walls and in the "outside world."

Our programs seeks to accommodate the non-curricular needs of students, ranging from internet and technology access to social-emotional well-being to special circumstances such as a family member at home who is highly vulnerable to COVID-19.

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, has determined the following layered prevention strategies be implemented in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19:

- Promoting vaccination for school personnel and students
- Consistent and correct use of masks at each campus
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.
- Cohorting students, when possible.

*Due to the hands-on, experiential learning within our program, CBGS will not be able to accommodate three feet social distancing in all learning contexts but will continue to layer mitigation strategies.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

The VDH COVID-19 Daily Dashboard and VDH School Metrics informs the rate of transmission across our fourteen divisions in The Commonwealth of Virginia. We serve 14 divisions that span three health districts, including divisions in the Rappahannock District (Caroline, King George), Three Rivers District (Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond County, and Westmoreland), and the Chickahominy District (New Kent).

Level of Community Disease Transmission will be reviewed and re-evaluated consistently. Data and transmission level retrieved from the Virginia Department of Health [School Metrics](#) page.

PLANNING TO REOPEN

COVID Planning Team

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School Leadership Team:

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CBGS Partners

Rappahannock Community College

Dr. Miles McCrimmon, Dean of Dual Enrollment and Community Outreach
804-513-5433 (cell)
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Virginia Department of Health

Ms. Holly Balderson, R.N. at Richmond County Office
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Dr. Richard Williams, MD MPH, Director at Three Rivers Health District
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Caroline County Public Schools

Dr. Herbert Monroe, Assistant Superintendent
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Mr. Jeffrey Wick, Coordinator of Safety and Compliance
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PLANNING TO REOPEN

Attendance Monitoring

All administrative assistants at each of the three campuses will report daily attendance to the Director. Additionally, the administrative assistants will send attendance of students enrolled in each respective home school to the attendance clerk of each home school on a daily basis.

In instances where there is an increase in student absenteeism due to health-related concerns, the Director will communicate with the following individuals:

- Holly Balderson at VDH
- Campus Point of Contact
 - Warsaw and Glenss: Dr. Miles McCrimmon, Dean of Dual Enrollment at Rappahannock Community College
 - Bowling Green: Mr. Jeffrey Wick, Coordinator of Safety and Compliance
- Administrative points of contact (principal, superintendent, or designee) at impacted home school divisions

Communication

Communication between students, faculty, students, home school divisions, and host facilities is critical due to the unique partnership of CBGS. Below are communication channels that will be used to maximize communication channels at CBGS.

Health Safety Agreement

All students, families, and will be required to complete the Student Health Safety Agreement upon starting classes for the fall semester to assure they understand their obligations in maintaining a safe environment when on campus. This form includes the obligation to complete a daily self-check via an instrument provided by the CDC prior to coming to campus.

Director Updates

The Director will provide email updates to families. It is critical that parents have relevant contact information on file.

School Messaging System

CBGS will use School Messenger to provide updates to families.

Schoology

Students will receive Schoology announcements from the Director. Parents may also sign-up to receive student announcements in Schoology.

PLANNING TO REOPEN

Communication of an Outbreak

As with all other communicable disease information, students and their families will be notified in writing, using the sample letter. This will also be shared with home school division administration as well as the facility points of contact for each respective campus.

[Date]

Dear CBGS Students and Families,

A potential positive case of COVID-19 has been identified at CBGS at the [campus name] campus. We are working the local Department of health on their public health investigation and contact tracing efforts.

CBGS continues to follow the steps outlined in the Health Mitigation Plan, which can be found on our website: cbgs.k12.va.us We are dedicated to maintain a safe, healthy environment for all students and staff, and will continue to work with our host facility to use the disinfecting procedures and processes recommended by the CDC and VDH.

Follow up actions will be provided as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Rachel Ball
Director of CBGS

PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

Community Response Efforts

CBGS will work with local agencies to assist in community response efforts to include: the Richmond County Department of Health, as part of the Three Rivers Health District.

Student Health Services

CBGS is a regional program and does not have student health services available on campus.. Site leads will communicate with the CBGS Director in instances where there is a student or staff member who expresses symptoms of COVID-19. Other non-COVID-19 health services are addressed on an individual basis based on the needs of the student.

Mental Health Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for social emotional learning as an essential part of a high-quality education; highlighting our relationships, resiliency, and collective problem-solving as fundamental to teaching and learning.

As we welcome students to the 2021-2022 school year, teachers will continue to support students' social emotional learning (SEL) with a focus on re-engaging students, supporting adults, building relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning.

Teachers at each school will meet regularly to discuss students' academic performance and social-emotional needs. They will work with the Director, Home School Advisors, and our CBGS families to develop plans of support for students of concern in one or both areas. CBGS does not have a school counselor and will help connect students and families with resources in their home school divisions, as needed.

Student Family Agreement

All CBGS students will be required to review and sign the CBGS Health Safety Agreement before participating in face-to-face learning on campus. See agreement on the next page.



CBGS Student Health Safety Agreement

The health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff is a top priority. With the current and uncertain future of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative we follow very specific guidelines until such time as the pandemic ends. This document provides guidelines for keeping students safe during the current COVID-19 pandemic for in-person learning.

As a condition for your return to the on-site learning environment, you will be expected to practice and follow these guidelines consistently for the safety of not only yourself, but for others you will encounter on-site and in the community.

For my safety, CBGS will do the following:

- Maintain a commitment to the quality and rigor of the CBGS curriculum and instruction and keep interruptions to a minimum;
- Initiate steps to mitigate the risk and transmission of COVID-19, including implementation of the CBGS Health Mitigation Plan;
- Communicate updates with students and families and home school divisions;
- Respond to student and family concerns and/or questions as they may arise; and
- Adapt, adjust, or change procedures or policies to adhere to CDC, state, or federal policy/guidelines.

As a parent/guardian of a CBGS student, I will commit to the following:

- Complete a daily health self-screening before allowing my child to load the bus or dropping them off at school
- I will not send my child to school if he/she is sick, regardless of symptoms
- I will keep my child home if his/her temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher
- I will not send my child to school if he/she has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or traveled to an area with a high incidence of COVID-19. I will quarantine him/her per CDC guidelines.
- I will call my child's school when an absence is necessary and provide a reason for absence

As a student of CBGS, I will commit to the following:

- Wear a face mask on campus if required to do so and on school-provided transportation
- Follow social distancing procedures to ensure that I maintain requested distance between myself and others
- Regularly utilize hand washing and hand sanitizing protocol

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

Adequate Supplies

CBGS has a facility arrangement with Caroline County Public Schools and Rappahannock Community College in which the host facilities ensure the cleanliness of the campuses and availability of adequate cleaning supplies.

CBGS will coordinate with its host facilities in support of [healthy hygiene](#) behaviors to ensure the availability of adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible) and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans. CBGS will issue all faculty and staff a CBGS face mask and disposable masks will be available.

Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in each classroom and in high use areas. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer each time they enter and exit the building and the classroom.

Supplies necessary for proper hand hygiene and ensuring all staff and students have the opportunity to maintain cleanliness will be maintained in each school facility.

Signs and Messaging

CBGS will post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms, etc.) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#) and properly wearing a cloth face covering).

CBGS will utilize CDC print and digital resources found on the CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.

PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

Physical Distancing

Due to the hands-on, experiential learning within our program, CBGS will not be able to accommodate three feet social distancing in all learning contexts but will continue to layer mitigation strategies. CBGS will use three feet social distancing in instances where the learning context is not compromised for students.

Face Coverings

All students and staff members are required to wear face coverings at all times while indoors, regardless of their vaccination status, when students are on campus. Nonvaccinated faculty will be required to wear face coverings at all times while indoors.

Food/Dining Services

CBGS does not provide dining services to students. During field experiences, CBGS faculty/staff will use appropriate gloves and packaging to minimize contact during food distribution.

Gatherings

CBGS students will remain with their classroom cohort of students during their time at CBGS, when possible.

Recreational Activities

CBGS does not participate in recreational sports. Field experiences will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but will be socially distanced and outside.

Outdoor Learning Spaces

Face coverings will not be required during outdoor activities.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND OPERATIONS

Daily Health Screenings for Students

Students will be screened at home using the *CBGS Student Health Safety Agreement*. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for signing the agreement at the beginning of the school year; the agreement explains and confirms the parent's/guardian's commitment to being responsible for screening his/her child each day before sending him or her to school. If a child is sent to school, the parent/ guardian is verifying the health of his or her child.

Each staff member will be on alert for students that appear ill - fever, sick stomach, altered appearance, etc.; these students will be immediately referred to the site lead for screening.

Health Screenings for Staff

Daily Self- Screening

All staff members should monitor their temperature and look for symptoms of COVID-19 on a daily basis at home prior to reporting to work. Staff members should stay home if they are ill, and notify their supervisor as soon as possible if an absence is necessary.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND OPERATIONS

Hygiene Practices

Cleaning and Disinfection

CBGS will [clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces (e.g., lab equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects will be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.

Transportation

CBGS does not operate school or own school buses and will therefore defer to district policy for the disinfecting of school buses. If CBGS does use district buses for events, drivers and students will practice safety actions and protocols such as face masks and social distancing, to the extent permissible.

Routine Cleaning and Disinfection

CBGS does not own school facilities and will therefore defer to RCC and CCPS policy for the routine cleaning and disinfection of school facilities, as part of the program's contract/MOA with both host facilities. Both organizations will utilize a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection and will have ensured [safe and correct use](#) and storage of cleaning and disinfecting products, storing products securely away from children.

Hand washing

Students and staff should wash hands regularly throughout the day, washing for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing guidance will be provided to all staff and students.

Ventilation Systems

CBGS does not own school facilities and will therefore defer to RCC and CCPS policy for the routine cleaning and disinfection of school facilities, as part of the program's contract/MOA with both host facilities. RCC and CCPS will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, if appropriate. RCC and CCPS staff will check HVAC systems and ensure filters are routinely changed according to manufacturer standards.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND OPERATIONS

Water Systems

CBGS does not own school facilities and will therefore defer to RCC and CCPS policy for the maintenance of water systems, as part of the program's contract/MOA with both host facilities. At the Bowling Green facility, CBGS will continue to purchase water for student and faculty consumption.

Gatherings

For the 2021-2022 school year, CBGS plans to allow school gatherings. This includes open house, performances, etc. During these events, ALL individuals in attendance (school employees, students, parents, community members, etc.) must wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status.

Field Trips

CBGS plans to implement its planned field experiences for students. All faculty, students, and chaperones must wear a face covering while on the bus on the way to and from the field trip destination and when indoors. Students will participate in overnight field experiences and will wear masks while indoors; however, students will not wear masks when sleeping.

Visitors

Visitors are asked to limit their visits to school. If a visitor must enter a school, they must do the following:

- Wear a face covering into the office
- Show your ID and sign in/sign out according to procedures
- Maintain a three foot distance from others at all times when possible

Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building beyond the main entrance unless provided permission by the Director or site lead.

Protecting Vulnerable Individuals

Students or staff with symptoms or a confirmed case of COVID-19 may return:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever - without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Your symptoms have improved

If you are unvaccinated and have been exposed to a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, VDH recommends that you stay home 14 days after the date of last close contact with the person infected with COVID-19. If you are not able to stay home for 14 days and do not have symptoms:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have developed; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a viral test (e.g., PCR or antigen test) is performed on or after Day 5, is negative, and if no symptoms have developed. Documentation of testing will need to be provided to the director prior to returning to school/work.

If you are vaccinated and you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Separation and Isolation of Symptomatic Students and Staff

CBGS will ensure that staff and families know that they (staff) or their children (families) should not come to school, and that they should notify school officials (site lead and/or the Director) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 [symptoms](#), test positive for COVID-19, or have been [exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.

CBGS will immediately separate staff and [children](#) with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school using a designated “safe space.” Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick.

Transportation

Parents/guardians will be notified and students will be required to be picked up. Students will not be permitted to ride the home school division bus back to school.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

CBGS will close off areas within the school building that were visited by an individual showing symptoms of COVID-19 and/or diagnosed with COVID-19 and will not use these areas until proper [cleaning and disinfecting](#) has occurred.

Notification of Health Officials and Close Contacts

In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the Director will notify [local health officials](#), staff, and families immediately of a positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). CBGS will inform those who have had [close contact](#) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and [self-monitor for symptoms](#), and follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.

CBGS will also notify division administration at the home school divisions as well as points of contact at the host facility.

Planning for Closure Due to Severe Conditions

CBGS will work closely with the Virginia Department of Health and division leadership to determine if/when school closures are warranted. Should an outbreak occur, CBGS may transition to remote learning. Individual campus closures will occur independently of one another, as infection rates across the region may vary at any given time.