



9/7/2021

After careful review of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), CDC and AAP newly published guidelines, I am reassured that our strategies to reopen last school year were consistent with the science-based best practices recommended by public health officials in federal agencies, and accredited medical associations. The most current guidance from VDH and data driven advice from Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), give our school the opportunity to review and adjust our mitigation strategies for the upcoming school year. Based on a consistent, science-based approach, the following mitigation measures will be followed to open the 2021-2022 academic year. As we have seen with COVID, guidelines and directives can change. We will continue to monitor these mitigations and keep you informed of any change.

Indoor masking- To ensure a safe start to the school year, all students, staff and visitors will wear masks while indoors regardless of vaccination status. Masks should be appropriate and not have valves. Gaiters are not permitted.

Outdoor activities- Recess, Physical Education, and other outdoor activities will NOT require mask wearing.

Covid exposure/quarantine- We will continue to work with and take our directives from the Fairfax County Health Department and the Virginia Department of Health to determine if students would have to quarantine due to exposure.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/08/Evaluating-Symptoms-in-a-Child.pdf>

<https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/health-and-safety-guidance-document>

Health Screenings- We will not be taking temperatures in the morning this year.

Illness- Children with fevers, contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and excluded from school while in that condition, per Virginia Department of Health Regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a healthcare provider or is feverfree/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school, after school, and extracurricular activities

Special Events- We will begin to bring back time- honored St. Luke School traditions throughout the year. Any school sponsored event will require people to wear a mask.

Volunteers-Masked and appropriately attested volunteers will once again be welcomed into our building.

Lockers- Students in middle school will return to locker use for the 2021-2022 school year.

As we learned from last year, in-person learning 5 days a week is essential to your child's emotional and educational growth. The dedication that our community showed to the mission of in-person learning was tremendous and I again ask you for your patience and compliance as we continue to navigate these times.

Our team will continue to review all mitigation practices to continuously inform planning and any need to modify. Ongoing modifications to mitigation policies will be based on the advice of the FCHD, VHD, OCS and will be transparently shared with the community.

I ask that you continue to pray for the health and safety of our community.

In Christ,
Tanya Salewski