

NORTON CITY SCHOOLS

Recover, Redesign, Restart

Reopening Plan 2020-21



Instructional Delivery Models for Consideration: Phase 3

100 % Virtual Academy	ALL Students In- Person	Hybrid
<p>Use Standard Learning Management System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Classroom Virtual Virginia Odysseyware Online textbook access and/or textbooks distributed <p>Video and Recorded Lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Meet: teacher, student, parents Zoom Screencastify Online Instructional Videos- YouTube, Khan Academy, etc. Synchronous models-example Zoom-happens in real-time Asynchronous models-occur through online channels without real-time interaction. <p>Teachers will follow mutually agreed upon pacing guides utilizing the CIP- Comprehensive Instructional Plan.</p> <p>Alternatives for Students with Connectivity Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper packets and workbooks Jump Drives Materials/Lessons downloaded onto Chromebook- utilizing internet-accessible locations with Norton City <p>Mastery of Learning/Assessment: Grading will be a part of the Virtual Academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Assessments Alternative Assessments <p>Participation and Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will report weekly participation which equals attendance through PowerSchool. If there is no activity after a week, teachers will try to contact the student and/or family. These attempts will be logged into PowerSchool. The truancy officer/Academic Supports will be notified if contact cannot be made and a home visit becomes necessary. Parent notes will not be accepted in the virtual academy learning model. 	<p><u>Pre-kindergarten- 12</u></p> <p>4 days a week attendance Remote Learning Friday- Academic support for students. Virtual check-in day with families. Initially, Pre-kindergarten will attend 2 days a week in order for social distancing to be obtained.</p> <p>If we should reach an attendance level within our Division for students or school personnel that has a significant impact on the ability to provide effective instruction, due to COVID-19 or restrictions related to the virus, we will, at that point, transition to a 100% virtual learning environment or consider other options for instruction. Attendance and health data will be monitored daily by administration and nursing staff and communicated to the Superintendent.</p> <p>At minimum, if we should reach an attendance level of 50% within our Division for students or school personnel, we will transition to the 100% Virtual Academy option for all students.</p>	<p>Kindergarten - 3rd Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 days a week attendance Friday: Remote Learning and virtual check-in day with families. <p>PreK, 4th- 12th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students attend on a rotating daily schedule: A/B schedule Mon/Wed-- Tue/Thurs. 4- day week instruction- Monday- Thursday Friday: Remote Learning and virtual check-in day with families. <p>Participation & Attendance Participation in school instruction, no matter the mode of instruction, is required. Participation and attendance will be monitored.</p> <p>* As health data and guidelines will allow, transition plans will be developed to have more students on site.</p>

100% Virtual Academy

Use Standard Learning Management System:

Google Classroom

Virtual Virginia

Odysseyware

Online textbook access and/or textbooks distributed

Video and Recorded Lessons:

Google Meet: teacher, student, parents

Zoom

Screencastify

Online Instructional Videos- YouTube, Khan Academy, etc.

Synchronous models-example Zoom- happens in real-time

Asynchronous models-occur through online channels without real-time interaction.

Teachers will follow mutually agreed upon pacing guides utilizing the CIP- Comprehensive Instructional Plan.

Alternatives for Students with Connectivity Issues:

Paper packets and workbooks

Jump Drives

Materials/Lessons downloaded onto Chromebook- utilizing internet-accessible locations with Norton City

Mastery of Learning/Assessment:

Grading will be a part of the Virtual Academy:

Traditional Assessments

Alternative Assessments


Participation and Attendance:

Teachers will report weekly participation which equals attendance through PowerSchool.

If there is no activity after a week, teachers will try to contact the student and/or family. These attempts will be logged into PowerSchool. The truancy officer/Academic Supports will be notified if contact cannot be made and a home visit becomes necessary.

- Parent notes will not be accepted in the virtual academy learning model.

- COVID-19 has not had as large an impact on Norton and Southwest Virginia as it has had on other parts of the Commonwealth and the Nation. As of July 15, 2020, only four citizens of Norton had contracted the virus and there were no active cases as reported by VDH.
- First and foremost, our desire is to open on schedule on August 5, 2020 with students, faculty, and staff, as much as reasonably possible, on campus 4 days a week with a “Remote Learning Day” on Friday.
- We believe – even more firmly after spending the last several months in a remote-learning environment – that daily interaction among students, their peers, and teachers is central to our children’s education. Furthermore, based on information gleaned from pediatricians, we also believe that children need the psychological, emotional, and social benefits of being in school with peers.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics provided interim guidance for reopening schools on June 26, 2020. In this guidance the AAP strongly advocated for an in-person return to school where possible due to the negative learning impact of closing school in the Spring, and because “children and adolescents also have been placed at higher risk of morbidity and mortality from physical or sexual abuse, substance use, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.” (<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/06/26/schoolreopening062620>).



Factors that
have been
considered for
Reopening

SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The purpose of this tool is to assist administrators in making (re)opening decisions regarding K-12 schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

Should you consider reopening?

- ✓ Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- ✓ Is the school ready to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness?
- ✓ Are you able to screen students and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?

ANY
NO



Are recommended health and safety actions in place?

- ✓ Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing and employees wearing a cloth face covering, as feasible
- ✓ Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- ✓ Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
- ✓ Train all employees on health and safety protocols

ALL
YES

ANY
NO



ALL
YES

Is ongoing monitoring in place?

- ✓ Develop and implement procedures to check for signs and symptoms of students and employees daily upon arrival, as feasible
- ✓ Encourage anyone who is sick to stay home
- ✓ Plan for if students or employees get sick
- ✓ Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
- ✓ Monitor student and employee absences and have flexible leave policies and practices
- ✓ Be ready to consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area

ALL
YES

ANY
NO



OPEN AND
MONITOR

Health and Safety

- Mitigation Strategies:
- <https://www.nortoncityschools.org/docs/district/mitigation%20compilation%20for%20ncs%208-6-20.pdf?id=789>

School Decision Tree

All Schools Regardless of Community Spread

Confirmed person
with COVID-19 in
building?

Assess
Risk

*Short (potential 2-5 Day)
Building Dismissal to
Clean/Disinfect/Contact
Trace in consultation with
local health officials*

No Community Spread

- Prepare
- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene
- Develop information sharing systems
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection
- Monitor for absenteeism
- Assess group gatherings and events
 - consider postponing non-critical gatherings and events
- Require sick students and staff stay home
- Establish procedures for someone becoming sick at school

*Monitor changes in
community spread*

Minimal to Moderate OR Substantial Community Spread

M/M

Is community spread Minimal to Moderate or Substantial?

S

- Coordinate with local health officials.
- Implement multiple social distancing strategies for gatherings, classrooms, and movement through the building.
- Consider ways to accommodate needs of children and families at high risk.

- Coordinate with local health officials.
- Implement multiple social distancing strategies for gatherings, classrooms, and movement through the building WITH EXTENDED SCHOOL DISMISSALS.
- Consider ways to accommodate needs of children and families at high risk.



General Information

Physical Distancing: We will be taking steps to maintain physical distancing throughout the day, starting with arrivals. We are evaluating space throughout school buildings to enable classrooms to meet the requirements for spacing students at least six feet apart to the extent possible. We recognize that we may need to use some of our larger spaces in unconventional ways to maintain small groupings and physical distancing. We also will be seeking mitigation variances for this strategy.

Masks and face coverings: Cloth face coverings, along with preventative measures and regular healthy hygiene practices such as handwashing, are recognized by medical professionals as one of the most effective tools for avoiding the spread of COVID-19; the Virginia Department of Health and the American Pediatrics offer guidelines for helping children understand the importance of masks.

Health checks: We have ordered a supply of infrared thermometers and are preparing for daily temperature checks of everyone who enters the campus, should CDC or health department guidelines call for us to do so. Symptom checks and temperature screenings are recommended daily prior to coming to school for faculty, staff, and students. Families are encouraged to do this prior to sending a child to school. However, elevated temperature is only one possible symptom of the illness; the VDH has published the following at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> with a detailed list. Naturally, we will also monitor all students and staff for COVID-like symptoms and will isolate them on campus and then send home anyone determined to be at risk by our medical staff, whose decisions will be guided by CDC/VDH symptoms and exposure checklists and objective findings. We will need your support in this effort as you monitor your own family's health and will reiterate our request that you keep your child home if he or she has a fever, exhibits symptoms, or has known exposure to someone with COVID-19.

General Information Continued

Nurse Stations: Our stations are being reevaluated and isolation rooms are established at each school for anyone exhibiting symptoms and awaiting transportation home. Our staff is in close contact with health officials to ensure that we have the best practices in place when school opens. We already have two nurses, one on each campus during the school day and are considering increasing that staffing, at least at the beginning of the year.

Buses: We still plan to run our buses on routes as close to what we have always had for students. If we see the need for altered or additional routes families will be notified. We have ordered equipment that will allow us to sanitize the inside of the buses once in the morning and once in the afternoon, in addition to the normal daily cleaning performed. We recognize the challenge of physical distancing on buses, and like schools around the region, we are working on that issue and will provide an update as soon as possible. We are requesting a mitigation variance with VDOE in this area. Face coverings may be required if social distancing is less than 6 feet.

Facilities: The school is in the process of upgrading restroom facilities, seeking to move to touch-free operation as much as possible. We are replacing the paper towel and hand soap dispensers. Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the buildings. Finally, we are adding three additional water bottle filling stations between the two schools as we plan to discourage usage of water fountains during this period.

Superintendent's Message



Mission: Norton City Schools will provide a safe learning environment where each student is engaged and instruction is personalized and differentiated. Delivery of instruction to each student will be adjusted as a result of formal and informal assessments by knowledgeable teachers who provide engaging instruction and relevant curricula. Administrators, teachers, and staff will build strong personal relationships with each student in order to develop appropriate individualized goals for academic growth. All stakeholders will work together to nurture each student's social, physical and intellectual growth, to empower each student with the skills to become a responsible citizen, a lifelong learner, and a leader in the global community.

Committed to Excellence – One Student at a Time

Our partnerships with parents and our community are important and vital to the sense of security and confidence for each of our students. It is our desire to work together to create the best and safest environment for Norton City Schools.

We are living in a time that many of our generations today would have never imagined. This is uncharted territory for most Americans. Few have ever been a part of a pandemic of this magnitude or experienced this level of national crisis. As an educator, I know that history indicates, as Americans, we find a way to persevere and improve our Country during such difficult times as we are living. Even though we all are facing our own level of hardships and negativity due to COVID-19, we have the opportunity before us in education to make changes, build upon our learning from the situation and create a better system for the next generation with so many lessons learned. By working together and agreeing to see our shortfalls to make something positive out of a negative situation, we can teach our students that regardless of the circumstances we can overcome obstacles and be even stronger than we could have ever thought possible. Norton City Schools looks forward to August 5, 2020, when we can begin to put strategies into place that will guide us to do our part in this tremendous responsibility.

We hope to open on schedule in an environment that looks as much like any regular school year as possible, but with creative and innovative approaches within the parameters we have been provided. Not only do we believe this is critical for our long-term educational system, but we also understand the hardships that many families experience with students not in school. This process will require compassion, tolerance, hard work, and, perhaps most of all, patience.

We will continue to be a bold and strong school system and community if we endeavor to work closely throughout this difficult time. It is my belief that we are always stronger together.