Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios
Loudoun County Public Schools
#ReadyTogether

May 19, 2020

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Planning for Multiple COVID-19 Scenarios

LCPS announced a three-scenario, modular planning approach April 21.

**Scenario 1:** Reopen schools with **100% in-person learning** (delivered **without** significant physical distancing or other public health mitigation strategies)

**Scenario 2:** Reopen schools with a **combination of in-person and distance learning** (in-person learning delivered **with** physical distancing and/or other public health mitigation strategies)

**Scenario 3:** Extend distance learning **without in-person learning**

Modules (parts) of planning for one scenario will be applied, as applicable, in planning for other scenarios.
Condition-Based Decision-Making

- Decisions regarding when to reopen schools, how to reopen schools, and whether to extend distance learning will be **condition-based, not time-based**

- The decisions will be based on consideration of pre-defined, science-based trigger points articulated by public health/state officials as well as any binding directives from other authorities

- Decisions will **not be based on a fixed timeline**
Forward Virginia Reopening Blueprint

- Governor Northam announced a multi-phase blueprint for easing public health restrictions

- On April 24, the Governor provided five threshold metrics for a transition to Phase 1
  - Downward trend of positive cases over a period of 14 days
  - Downward trend of hospitalizations over a period of 14 days
  - Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity
  - Increasing and sustainable supply of Personal Protective Equipment
  - Increased testing and tracing

- On May 8, the Governor issued Executive Order 61 stating that Phase 1 will go into effect 12 a.m. Friday, May 15, 2020

- On May 12 and May 14, the Governor authorized Northern Virginia & other select areas to delay implementation of Phase 1 until midnight on Thursday, May 28.
On 5/9/20 NoVa Health Directors released an assessment of the metrics for entering Phase I that the state announced on April 24.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moving downward: % of positive tests over 14 days</td>
<td>Unable to assess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving downward: Hospitalizations over 14 days</td>
<td>Unmet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased testing</td>
<td>Unable to assess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased (contact) tracing (capacity)</td>
<td>Unmet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity</td>
<td>Unable to assess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing and sustainable supply of Personal Protective Equipment</td>
<td>Unmet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Additional metrics: need to be considered for Phase 2 and Phase 3, including Contact Tracing indicators, Availability for Non-hospitalized Persons Needing Isolation and/or Quarantine, Long-Term Care Facility metrics, etc.”
Virginia

forward virginia blueprint
Phase I looks like this:

- Safer at home—especially if you are vulnerable
- No social gatherings of more than 10 individuals
- Continued social distancing
- Continued teleworking
- Face coverings recommended in public
- Revised business limitations
Phase II looks like this:

- Stay-at-home for vulnerable populations
- No social gatherings of more than 50 individuals
- Continued social distancing
- Continued teleworking
- Face coverings recommended in public
- Further easing business limitations

- Phase 2 could last 2-4 weeks or longer
Phase III: Longer-term

- To move to Phase III, we’re looking for no evidence of rebound for a sustained period of time.

- Phase III looks like this:
  - Safer at home for vulnerable populations
  - Remove ban on social gatherings
  - Remove capacity limits in establishments
  - Continue heightened cleaning and disinfection
  - Possible other measures

Phase III could be 10-12 weeks away, or more.
Physical Distancing & In-Person Learning

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has not yet provided K-12 specific guidance on recommended physical distancing practices and other mitigation strategies.

Physical distancing guidelines likely could be implemented by limiting the occupancy level of each school to a specific percentage of building capacity.

- Specific VDH guidance could help identify the appropriate occupancy level.
- LCPS currently planning to develop Scenario 2 prototypes (combination of in-person and distance-learning) based on 25% and 50% occupancy.
- Prototypes will be assessed for viability/safety before implementation.
In-person Learning without Physical Distancing
LCPS Scenario 1

The Commonwealth of Virginia has not released information that connects the phases of the Forward Virginia Blueprint to K-12 education specifically. Such information would provide greater insight regarding when conditions would permit students to return to 100% in-person learning without distance learning or physical distancing.
In-person Learning & Distance Learning
LCPS Scenario 2

- It is unknown whether in-person learning (with physical distancing) for all students would be permitted during Northern Virginia Phase 3.
- If it were permitted, physical distancing would likely lead to limiting building capacity and distance learning in addition to in-person learning during Northern Virginia Phase 3.
Distance Learning without In-person Learning
LCPS Scenario 3

● As long as Loudoun County is in a phase of the Forward Virginia Blueprint that does not permit in-person learning, we would need to rely on distance learning without in-person learning

● A revised approach to distance learning would be implemented based on lessons learned
  ○ How can we build on the strengths of current distance learning?
  ○ What opportunities for improving distance learning exist?

● LCPS is planning to have the capacity to develop options for distance learning without in-person learning for students whose parents do not want any in-person learning for their children during the 2020-2021 school year
Initially Building Roadmaps
Not Detailed, How-to Manuals

- We are building prototype responses to the scenarios
  - The prototypes are incomplete and imperfect but will generate additional iterative planning
  - The prototypes include modules or parts that address particular topics, such as transportation, social emotional learning, and student & teacher schedules
    - Some modules are very general
    - Other modules are more detailed (like zooming in on a digital map or looking at an inset on a hard-copy roadmap)
- We are revising the prototypes based on feedback and new information
- This iterative plan-and-evolve approach will support continual progress
Our Mindset While Prototyping

- Bias towards action - your best bet is to just make something.
- Think about your idea in a concrete manner.
- Gain insights into ways you can improve your idea.

- Prototyping is all about speed.
- The longer you spend building your prototype, the more emotionally attached you can get.

- Test the prototype against your expected user behaviors and user needs.
- Learn from the gaps in expectations and realities.
- Improve your ideas.
Sprint 2 Core Work Group Participants

Core work groups include 80 participants

- the 45 members of Senior Staff (Superintendent, Chief of Staff, Assistant Superintendents, their direct reports, 8 representative Principals, and Director of Communication and Community Engagement)
- 5 parent representatives of particular groups (Equity Committee, Gifted Advisory, Hunt District PTA, MSAAC, SEAC) and a community leader from the School Business Partnership Advisory Council
- 2 Representatives from Loudoun Education Association (LEA)
- 5 other parents, 2 high school students in grades 9-11, and 2 teachers identified by School Board members
- 10 individuals who each serve as a teacher, counselor, school psychologist, or other school level staff (with representation from elementary, middle, high)
- Approximately 7 other division level staff members
Sprint #2 Plan: May 11 – 22

Desired Outcomes of Sprint 2:

- Four prototypes that are almost “good enough to share” with a much wider group of stakeholders [Two In-Person Learning & Distance Learning prototypes (Scenario 2) and Two Distance Learning without In-Person Learning prototypes (Scenario 3)]
- List of considerations for future prototypes to address in more detailed prototypes
- Further directional clarity for Senior Staff and Stakeholders (80 people)
Key Components of COVID-19 Plans
1st Iteration

1. **Wellness**: We promote the physical and social-emotional well-being of students and staff members.

2. **Deeper Learning**: We support students’ deeper learning of important content and competencies through individual learning pathways in order to cultivate the Loudoun County Profile of a Graduate.

3. **Culture**: We nurture the culture needed to thrive.

4. **Operations and Systems**: We organize our people, time, and resources for success, while creating and refining systems to support success.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules of Focus for Work Groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-person &amp; Distance Learning Scenario 2A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meal Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities, including cleaning protocols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls for Entering, Departing, and Moving within Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student &amp; Teacher Schedules</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Examples of Additional Modules

Wellness

● Connecting students to trusted staff members

Deeper Learning

● Personalized learning to meet individual student needs
● Multi-tiered systems of support to address academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs

Culture

● Function as a learning organization that seeks progress, not perfection
● Approach all of our work with an equity lens

Operations & Systems

● Develop enhanced options for secondary students to complete entire year via distance learning if they choose to do so
● Enhance systems for supporting and engaging parents
Sprint 3, May 26–June 12

- Preceded by additional communication with parents and staff regarding scenarios and emerging connection with Northern Virginia’s implementation of Forward Virginia Blueprint
- Engage teachers and other school-level staff in 1st iteration of multiple school-level prototypes adapted from evolving division prototypes (involves the schools whose principals participated in Sprints 1 and 2)
- Engage principals in deep dive review of evolving division prototypes
- Departments continue to revise and further develop modules within prototypes
- Focus groups start June 1
Sprint 3 Focus Groups

- Start June 1 with two key goals
  - Obtain feedback on prototypes to inform further revisions
  - Provide greater directional clarity within the community - a better understanding of the experiences involved with the scenarios

- Focus Group Participants
  - LCPS groups/partners: Equity Committee, Gifted Education Advisory, Hunt District PTA, MSAAC, SEAC, law enforcement partners
  - Other parent focus groups (elementary, middle, high) with some participants identified by School Board members
  - Middle school and high school student focus groups
  - Employee groups, such as teachers (elementary, middle, and high), nurses, custodians, and School Nutrition Workers
  - Distance learning experts representing groups such as International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), Consortium for School Networking (COSN), Aurora Institute (formerly iNACOL), and others recommended by the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools
School Board Engagement in COVID-19 Planning

- School Board continues to receive planning updates on May 26 and at future School Board meetings, with consideration of action items as needed.
- Proposed June 16 work session focused exclusively on prototypes:
  - Overview of prototypes revised based on focus group feedback
  - Overview of focus group feedback
  - Q & A in order to understand prototypes and focus group feedback
  - School Board provides input regarding prototypes
- Potential subsequent School Board action regarding policies and resource allocation.
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