



Returning to School 2020-2021

Third Release of Information Pertaining to COVID-19

As the coming school year approaches, ECS continues to monitor developments in the COVID-19 crisis. During Virginia's phase 3 reopening, we have observed that although statewide cases have increased, new cases in northern VA have remained relatively flat over the last month (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/> retrieved July 28). As we mentioned in earlier releases, ECS does not encounter the same scope of challenges facing public school systems. ECS continues to plan for in-person instruction beginning as scheduled on Monday, August 31, and will implement a variety of safeguards in light of COVID-19. Later in August we will release additional information about our back-to-school Open House currently scheduled for Friday, August 28. Should conditions deteriorate significantly in the coming month, ECS would notify parents via OneCallNow if any of our plans change. To opt in for text messaging from OneCallNow, please text the word ALERT to 22300.

ECS still recognizes the possibility that we may have to revert to phase 1 or 2 in the coming school year. As originally announced last month, ECS operational plans under these various phases has not changed:

Phase 3 (VA permits academic instruction for all grade levels)

- In-classroom instruction for all grade levels

Phase 2 (VA permits in-person instruction for students through grade 3)

- In-classroom instruction for K3-grade 2
- Distance learning for students in grades 3 and above
- Day care for students in grades 3 and up (*priority given to parents who are considered essential personnel*)

Phase 1 (VA closes in-classroom instruction for all students)

- In-person day care for K3-K4
- Distance learning for students in K5 and up
- Day care for students in K5 and up (*priority given to parents who are considered essential personnel*)

ECS will not provide in-person instruction in this environment, but participants would have full access to the ECS distance learning program.

In each phase, ECS will implement a variety of safeguards based on CDC recommendations.

- Enhanced daily health screening practices
- Social distancing practice to the greatest degree possible
- Adjustments to practices/procedures where necessary

In keeping with AAP and CDC guidelines, ECS will require sick students and staff members to stay at home. Any member of the ECS student body or staff in the following categories should not return to school until CDC's criteria for a safe return have been satisfied:

- Recent close contact with a person with COVID-19
- Showing signs of or testing positive for COVID-19

While children under age 10 are not required to wear masks, we encourage students to wear them in our school setting.

If you would like to review previous releases of COVID-19 related information (June 30, July7), please contact the office.