



NEWS RELEASE

August 16, 2021

Queen Anne's County Public Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Patricia Saelens, has outlined guidance on health and safety to begin the upcoming school year. Decisions have been made in collaboration with the partnerships and data provided by consultation with Queen Anne's County Health Officer, Dr. Joseph Ciotola and guidance documents from the [Maryland Department of Health \(MDH\)](#), the [Maryland State Department of Education \(MSDE\)](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

Our primary goal is getting students back in school to prevent any additional learning loss as well as keeping the health and safety of all students and staff a priority. Local metrics will continue to be used daily to determine the implementation of health and safety practices.

In order to safely reopen schools, the following layered prevention strategies will be implemented as of August 17th, 2021:

- Universal face coverings for all staff and students in all buildings and buses.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies will continue to be utilized and replenished including face shields, face masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Cleaning and disinfecting conducted frequently throughout the buildings with emphasis on high touch areas in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Continue to provide the highest rated MERV filters throughout the HVAC systems.
- Pull in the maximum amount of outdoor air in combination with running units prior to and after dismissal of students.
- Provide ongoing professional development for staff.
- Continue to require self screening and/or health checks daily, prior to entering any school building.
- Follow the [Quarantine Guidelines](#).

QACPS will encourage:

- Hand washing frequently and especially prior to eating
- Social Distancing (face covering may be removed if maintaining six feet of distance)
- Frequent face covering breaks

We are committed to ensuring a quality education in a safe environment. We will continue to consult with our local health care partners and periodically review this decision and make changes as needed. We will adapt and adjust as the situation demands. Please stay tuned to your email and social media for future updates.