



November 9, 2020

## A Message from the Superintendent

Colleagues,

Welcome to this week's edition of R2L Weekly, a publication developed to keep you updated on recent R2L happenings around our great school division.



This edition, in part, is dedicated to the launch of the NNPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard which will go live this evening. The Dashboard will provide weekly updates on health metrics for the Eastern Region, Greater Peninsula, and City of Newport News. Additionally, the dashboard will provide data on NNPS' staff and student positive COVID-19 cases. We believe this information will be helpful in our assessment and communication of safety moving forward.

### Quick Tips When Reviewing the COVID-19 Dashboard

1. Over 40% percent of NNPS employees reside outside of the City of Newport News. This is an important statistic and is the basis for our dashboard data related to the Eastern Region and Greater Peninsula areas.
2. The primary safety strategy for NNPS' health and safety plan is the consistent implementation of all [CDC recommended safety strategies](#). Proper implementation has proven to **lower the risk** of COVID-19 in schools.
3. When reviewing the dashboard, think of the color-coded indicators in the following manner:
  - **GREEN** is Great - Operational plans may proceed with safety standards in place.
  - **YELLOW** to **ORANGE** - Proceed with current school operations with a greater emphasis on safety protocols and monitoring.
  - **RED** means STOP and ASSESS – When either the Regional, Peninsula or City Health Metrics reach the Highest Levels, NNPS will cease any plans for additional students to report for in-person instruction until further notice. Classes that are meeting on a hybrid schedule will continue to meet as scheduled.

In addition, school safety procedures will be reinforced and monitored to ensure that risk factors remain low in all schools.

4. The NNPS Dashboard is not intended to communicate all information from the Centers for Disease Control or the Virginia Health Department; therefore, links to additional information are provided.

A link to the NNPS COVID-19 Dashboard is included later in this document along with important safety information.

Congratulations to Ms. Kathy Barthelemy and Ms. Sally Fuller for being included in our Staff Shoutout this week!

George Parker, III, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

# RETURN TO LEARN

## PLAN FOR A SAFE RETURN, 2020-2021

# UPDATE

### COVID-19 Dashboard Launches

NNPS has launched an online [dashboard](#) to keep staff, families and the community informed about positive COVID-19 cases within Newport News Public Schools. The dashboard will provide the number of positive COVID cases by location each week, in addition to eastern region, Peninsula and Newport News transmission data from the Virginia Department of Health, which evaluates statistics for two weeks to identify reliable trends.

NNPS will implement its Return to Learn Plan based on the status of COVID-19 community transmission, positivity rates within Newport News Public Schools and the school division's ability to provide in-person instruction and other activities.

If regional or community health conditions enter the "Highest Risk" category at any time, NNPS in consultation with the Peninsula Health District will pause at the current Return to Learn implementation phase and delay any increased participation in in-person instruction. School operations will continue with an increased emphasis on safety measures, self-screening and cleaning.

As outlined in school division's health plan, when a positive case of COVID-19 is reported, staff at each school or worksite will continue to be notified about the positive case. Through contact tracing, close contacts will be identified and requested to quarantine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), close contacts of a person with a positive COVID-19 test are those individuals who have been in contact with the person for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period and at a distance of 6 feet or less.

### Meals-to-Go Update

Student meal service hours are changing this week. Beginning today, November 9, all school and meals-to-go sites will distribute meals Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Free meals are available for all NNPS students and other children under the age of 18. Families will receive a prepackaged breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner for each child. On Friday, families will also receive breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday.

Meals are served at 39 locations across the city. Families may visit the closest location. Please note that the Jenkins Elementary School site is closed until November 16.

A list of sites and menus are available at [www.nnschools.org/cns](http://www.nnschools.org/cns).

### Newport News Public Schools COVID-19 Dashboard

#### Return to Learn Metrics

Newport News Public Schools will implement its Return to Learn Plan based on the status of COVID-19 community transmission, positivity rates within Newport News Public Schools and the school division's ability to provide in-person instruction and other activities.

The health metrics provided below will be updated weekly based on data from the Virginia Department of Health, which evaluates statistics for two weeks to identify reliable trends. Newport News Public Schools monitors Eastern region, Peninsula and Newport News transmission data.

If regional or community health conditions enter the Highest Risk category at any time, NNPS in consultation with the Peninsula Health District will pause at the current Return to Learn implementation phase and delay any increased participation in in-person instruction. School operations will continue with an increased emphasis on safety measures, self-screening and cleaning.

The chart below indicates a two-week trend mark provided by the Peninsula Health District and therefore will not necessarily align to the daily updates on the [VDOH school status website](#).

(Data as of November 2-6, 2020)

INDICATORS	Lowest	Low	Moderate	High	Highest
<b>Core Indicators</b>					
Number of new cases per 100,000 people within the last 14 days*	<5	5 to <20	20 to <50	50 to <200	>200
Eastern Region		🟢			
Peninsula				🟡	
Newport News				🟡	
Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days**	<3%	3% to <5%	5% to <8%	8% to <10%	>10%
Eastern Region		🟢			
Peninsula			🟡		
Newport News		🟢			
Ability of NNPS to implement 3 key mitigation strategies	Implemented all 3 strategies consistently and consistently	Implemented all 3 strategies consistently but occasionally	Implemented 3-4 strategies consistently and consistently	Implemented 1-2 strategies consistently and consistently	Implemented no strategies
Newport News Public Schools	🟢				

Transmission Rate Key Code: 🟢 = Decreasing 🟡 = Fluctuating 🔴 = Increasing

# HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The CDC has determined that consistent implementation of safety mitigation procedures is key to lowering the risk of transmission of coronavirus in schools.

NNPS is committed to providing the necessary training for school personnel and students; personal protective equipment; cleaning supplies and cleaning staff necessary to ensure that school buildings remain safe for daily usage.

Recently, one of the most frequently asked questions has been about the use and availability of face shields. As mandated by the VDOE, one-on-one assessments and evaluations may be required for certain students; in these cases, as an added precaution, teachers and staff will be required to wear masks and NNPS issued face shields. This type of PPE will also be provided to teachers if a six-foot distance cannot be maintained during in-person, small group instruction, and will be available upon request.

Please note that the CDC does not recommend the use of face shields alone and stresses the importance of wearing a mask especially in enclosed places like classrooms.

## STAFF Shoutout

**Kathy Barthelemy** is a veteran special education collaborative kindergarten teacher. Dr. Michele Mitchell, executive director of student advancement, reports that Ms. Barthelemy always goes above and beyond to meet the needs of all the children in the classroom, from calling parents after school hours, to mailing additional practice packets home to families and even scheduling additional Zoom sessions for students needing extra support. When Canvas was introduced, she immersed herself in the professional development sessions offered and accepted the challenge of teaching in a brand new way.



Ms. Barthelemy says, “I took a lot of trainings this summer in preparation for this school year and made a lot of things. As this year has continued, I have continued to make virtual items that are engaging, purposeful, and, I hope, fun for my kindergartners. Recently, I created a digital library for our non-fiction literacy unit on zoo animals.”

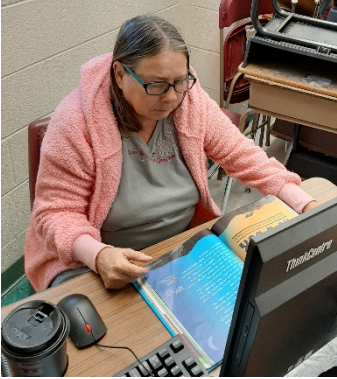
She considers her class to be a family and hopes that all of her students “feel valued and loved and know that they can be anything they want to be. . . I am always very humbled that families allow me to be a part of their child’s kindergarten year.”

A quote seen on inspirational plaques resonates with Ms. Barthelemy: “Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create, and hearts to love.”

Dr. Mitchell says, “The way Kathy Barthelemy cares and plans for students is true testament to her commitment to children as she works tirelessly to meet their individual needs.”

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**Sarah “Sally” Fuller**, a bus driver who was sent to help at Hines Middle School during virtual learning, is yet another great example of reassigned employees finding ways to make major contributions in their new circumstances.



At first, Ms. Fuller served as a door greeter at Hines, but later she started Zoom training and became a buddy teacher in a virtual classroom. She was assigned to support Heather Horne, a seventh grade English teacher.

Ms. Horne calls Ms. Fuller a “shining star,” and describes how she eagerly jumped into Zoom instruction and voluntarily read ahead to familiarize herself with the literature selections in upcoming lessons and researched information to share with students about featured authors.

“My heart grew at least three sizes the day Ms. Fuller told me what she had done,” Ms. Horne said.

Lisa Gatz-Daniel, principal at Hines Middle, says, “We are so grateful to have Ms. Fuller as an adopted member of the Spartan Family.”

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# HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

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## Virtual Job Fair for Teachers

Know someone who might be interested in teaching in NNPS? The Human Resources team is hosting a virtual job fair for teachers this week. Candidates may register at [http://txttoday.com/ev\\_qvkleghAWtx](http://txttoday.com/ev_qvkleghAWtx) and are asked to complete the application in advance. More information is available [here](#).

## FAQ

To prepare for the return to in-person instruction, the Human Resources Team is ensuring that all employees have the information they need. Each week, HR will respond to some of the frequently asked questions the team receives.

### What should I do if I get sick with COVID symptoms or I am directly exposed to someone with COVID-19?

Staff are expected to review the daily health questionnaire prior to their arrival at work daily (<http://sbo.nn.k12.va.us/returntolearn/doc/health-employee.pdf>). Staff members must stay home and contact their supervisor immediately if they answer “yes” to any of the questions from the health questionnaire. Supervisors will then notify the COVID Response Team. The Health Services Department will contact the employee and provide directions to the employee regarding any actions the employee needs to take (quarantine, see a medical professional, etc.). The Human Resources Department will contact the employee regarding the leave available to them to cover any absences and Plant Services will take care of any additional cleaning needs at the site. Anyone at a worksite where there is a confirmed positive case of COVID will be provided written notification of the existence of a positive case. Officials from the Peninsula Health District or NNPS Health Services will contact staff who have been identified as coming into “close contact” with the person who has tested positive to provide further information and guidance. Close contacts of a person with a positive COVID-19 test are those individuals who have been in contact with the person for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period with a distance of 6 feet or less.

### Don't forget about the Employee Wellness Plan through Rally

Rally can help employees improve their overall health and wellness. You can use Rally on any mobile device or computer to improve your diet, fitness, and even your mood. Rally can give you support as you work towards creating healthy habits and

reaching your health and fitness goals. Rally will give you personalized recommendations for your diet, fitness, and mood, and rewards you for making progress.

Rally is a great benefit for **ALL** employees; even if you don't participate in a NNPS Healthcare plan, you can earn Rally Coins and exchange them for a chance to win some great rewards like exercise gear, gift cards, electronic gadgets and mountain bikes.

For more information, visit the NNPS Wellness website at <http://www.nnschools.org/wellness>.

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## On the Calendar

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>November 11</b>      | <b>Report Cards Available in ParentVUE</b>  |
| <b>November 16</b>      | <b>Instructional Staff Begins Working at Schools/Offices at least 2 days per week</b>   |
| <b>November 17</b>      | <b>School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</b><br>Live stream on <a href="http://www.nnpstv.com">www.nnpstv.com</a> ; Roku and Apple TV |
| <b>November 25</b>      | <b>Schools Closed, Offices Open Half Day</b><br>No Instruction for Students   |
| <b>November 26 – 27</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Observance</b><br>Schools & Offices Closed  |
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