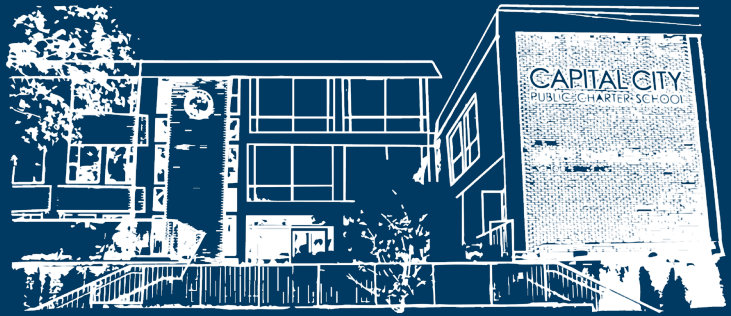


FROM RE-ENTRY TO RECOVERY



SPRING 2022 COVID SAFETY UPDATE

Building on the first half of the school year, we are updating our COVID safety protocols to address new research, updated health guidance, lessons learned from other schools, availability of vaccines, and data and feedback from staff and families. We believe we can improve the continuity of instruction for students while maintaining a high level of safety with updated policies and procedures that are reasonable and sustainable for students, staff, and families.



Along with guidance from DC Health and the CDC, our community input allows us to deliver a high-quality education to children of all ages in the new normal of learning in a pandemic. Nearly 400 family and staff members filled out our spring survey, with the majority reporting safety has been a high priority at Capital City. Family and staff responses directly informed our spring policy changes and priorities. We heard:

Families/staff appreciate:

- Weekly COVID testing
- COVID Safety Team
- Timely communications
- Universal masking
- Air quality/purification
- The Curative Van
- Readiness to pivot to distance learning
- Virtual learning after winter break

Families/staff areas to improve:

- Clear and concise COVID safety communications
- Updating testing protocols, considering test to stay options, use of antigen tests and individual testing
- Increasing vaccination rates
- Increased attention to distancing
- Fewer quarantines

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UPDATED SAFETY PROTOCOLS

WEEKLY INDIVIDUAL COVID TESTING

Following updated guidance from DC Health, **weekly pooled PCR testing of students will be replaced with weekly individual PCR testing.** Starting on March 1, our new vendor, St. Jude Laboratories, will send nurses to Capital City to test all students whose families have already provided a consent form. We will receive results within 24-36 hours. Families will be notified within 24 hours of learning the results if their student tests positive or is a close contact of a positive case. Staff will continue to be tested weekly using our previous vendor.

TEST-TO-STAY FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

In alignment with the CDC and DC Health recommendations for a test-to-stay program, we will conduct rapid antigen tests for students who are close contacts. In combination with our weekly individual PCR testing, we hope to significantly reduce quarantines without increased risk.

- **Unvaccinated close contacts** will take a rapid antigen test at school on day 1 and day 5 after exposure to continue learning in person.
- **Vaccinated close contacts** will take a rapid antigen test at school on day 5 after exposure to continue learning in person.
- **Recently positive close contacts** (who have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days) will take a rapid antigen test at school on day 5 after exposure to continue learning in person.

If Capital City does NOT have a testing consent form for a student, the student cannot use rapid antigen tests to stay in the building and must quarantine. Please fill out a testing consent form [here](#).

With support from the COVID Safety Team, and under a CLIA waiver, students will self-administer rapid antigen tests at school. The COVID Safety Team will monitor results and follow up with families of students who test positive.

QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

With our new individual PCR testing and test-to-stay program for students with testing consent, more students should be able to safely learn in person. Quarantine and isolation are required in the following contexts:

- Unvaccinated students without testing consent must quarantine following exposure for 7 days, if they receive a PCR test on or after the 5th day; and for 10 days if they do not test.
- All students and staff **who test positive for COVID** must complete 10 days of isolation and attend school virtually.
- In compliance with updated guidance from DC Health, unvaccinated siblings (who have not tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days) of symptomatic students must quarantine until the symptomatic sibling provides a negative PCR test.
- Families must continue to [fill out this form](#) and follow our [travel policy](#) which informs test-to-return and potential quarantines.



SPRING BREAK TEST-TO-RETURN

Capital City will provide all students a rapid antigen test kit containing two tests. One test must be used to return to the school building following Spring Break. Tests and paperwork will be sent home BEFORE break. Families can expect paper and electronic communication on how to report results and what to do if positive.

Rapid tests must be taken and results reported on Saturday, April 16. Anyone who does not submit a test by this deadline will be excluded from class on Monday, April 18 until they provide results.



BUILDING ON WHAT'S WORKING

LAYERED MITIGATION

We will continue to implement a multi-layered mitigation strategy that includes promoting vaccination, universal mask wearing regardless of vaccination status, maintaining physical distance, enhanced cleaning, ventilation and air filtration, staggered arrival and dismissal, and weekly COVID testing of students and all staff.

- **Masks:** For this spring, we invested in higher quality masks for students (KN95) and staff (KF94 and an option for N95 respirators) to wear inside the building. When the city reaches moderate transmission, we plan to loosen the requirement to be masked while outdoors.
- **Physical Distance:** To decrease the number of close contacts and quarantines, we are re-emphasizing to all students and staff they must remain 3 feet apart in classrooms while masked, and 6 feet apart during meals while unmasked, and we are ensuring that our spaces are set up to facilitate this requirement.

COVID SAFETY TEAM

Our COVID Safety Team supports our daily safety protocols (such as managing exclusion lists and staffing isolation rooms), provides COVID-related notifications, and stays up-to-date on research and guidance. This team also supports weekly COVID testing and will help the contracted nurses who will administer the student PCR tests. Contact the COVID Safety Team at covidsafety@ccpcs.org.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Students in quarantine or with medical waivers will continue to have access to virtual learning. Students with medical waivers are welcome to change their status and learn in person this spring. PARCC testing will be required to be administered in person for 3rd-10th grade students. Our assessment team will work with families of students with medical waivers to develop testing plans.

- Email families@ccpcs.org to request virtual learning for a child if necessary because their Capital City sibling must quarantine. Siblings can join virtually if they are added to our exclusion list by 7:45am.
- Email homehelp@ccpcs.org for support with your Capital City computer/tablet, Internet, or accessing virtual learning.
- Email families@ccpcs.org or contact your campus principal if you would like your student with a medical exemption to transition to in-person learning.

VACCINATION

The free and safe COVID vaccines are critical to stopping the spread of the virus and ending the pandemic. The CDC, DC Health, and Capital City strongly encourage all individuals 5 years and older to get vaccinated — including boosters when eligible. Vaccines significantly lower the risk of serious disease and hospitalization.

Vaccinations are free and readily accessible. Find a location to get vaccinated [here](#).

All Capital City staff must be fully vaccinated or be approved for a religious or medical exemption. New this spring, vaccinated staff are required to get a booster within 6 weeks of eligibility. Additionally, students who participate in sports or extracurricular activities must be fully vaccinated and participate in weekly testing.

Currently, 99% of staff are vaccinated. 45% of students 5 years and older are vaccinated (based on student vaccination cards submitted to Capital City). **Next school year, COVID vaccination will be required for students as part of the city's "No Shots, No School" policy and students who are not fully immunized will not be able to attend in-person school or receive distance learning.**

Submit student vaccine cards [here](#).



LOOKING AHEAD

RETURN OF COMMUNITY STRUCTURES

Visitor Policy: We will consider revisions to our visitor policy when the city reaches moderate/low transmission for COVID. We look forward to safely welcoming our families back into the building when feasible and will share plans when available.

Extracurricular Activities: Sports outdoors will continue in the spring with vaccination and testing required. Arts and other activities will be permitted with vaccination and testing required. In addition, vaccinated high school students will be able to participate in fieldwork and college visits (following Capital City masking guidelines). We are also exploring outdoor adventure trips for vaccinated and unvaccinated students across all campuses when the city is in moderate/low transmission; these trips will require bus travel with masking and distancing.



NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Capital City has started planning for next school year. We are currently discussing school schedules, classroom usage and its impact on social distancing, quarantines and close contacts, fieldwork, meal service, use of outdoor spaces, building renovations, and more. Expect more information later this spring.

COMMUNICATIONS

We recognize that in an ever changing pandemic, clear and consistent communication is key.

- Families will continue to be notified of any positive cases where their children are close contacts within 24 hours.
- Families must notify Capital City as soon as possible of any positive results from testing conducted outside of school.
- Families can continue to access COVID-related data and information in our weekly dashboard sent to all families in our Monday newsletter as well as the COVID safety page of the website.
- We will continue to seek feedback from families on our COVID safety policies to inform decisions for this spring and next school year. Families are encouraged to contact us with questions or ideas!

CONTACT US!

- For general support, email families@ccpcs.org.
- For questions related to our COVID safety protocols, email covidsafety@ccpcs.org.
- For technology support, email homehelp@ccpcs.org.
- For Lower School campus-specific questions, email Office Manager Carolina Romero at carolinaromero@ccpcs.org.
- For Middle School campus-specific questions, email Office Manager Veronica Ramirez at vramirez@ccpcs.org.
- For High School campus-specific questions, email Office Manager Yanira Cuellar at ycuellar@ccpcs.org.



To provide feedback on the Spring 2022 COVID Update, **please fill out this form.**