



SALEM
CITY SCHOOLS

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**Salem City Schools
Plan for Safe Return to In-Person
Instruction and Continuity of Services**

August 10, 2021

Section 1: Introduction

This plan describes how Salem City Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction.

We believe that most students learn best under the direction of a caring and committed educator. We are also committed to providing a healthy and safe environment in accordance with state and federal guidelines for in-person instruction, but we understand that it is not possible to provide a “no risk” environment. Salem City Schools plans to open at full capacity five days a week on our normal bell schedule. Online options are available for students who have been approved to participate in online instruction.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Salem City Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction.

Salem City Public Schools has adopted policies on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Salem City Public Schools has developed a [scalable mitigation implementation plan](#) based on recommendations from the VDH, the CDC, and the AAP. Staff and students will be directed to wear face-coverings in accordance with this plan.
- If required by local, state, or federal guidelines SCS will modify facilities to allow for physical distancing of students and staff. At this time Salem City Public Schools has no plans to require physical distancing of staff or students. Physical distancing will be encouraged when reasonable and practical but will not be mandatory.
- Salem City Public Schools will continue to communicate and encourage proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Salem City Schools will continue cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation, such as replacing air filters with rated filters.
- Salem City Schools will continue contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the local health department as required.

- Salem City Schools provided several vaccination clinics to the school community during the spring of 2021 and remains available in the event the local health department requests use of a facility to facilitate public health efforts.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will continue to be provided.
- Salem City Schools will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Salem City Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Salem City Public Schools used ESSER Grant funds to hire additional instructional staff to provide personalized on-time instructional support to address unfinished learning.

Additional funds were budgeted for school counseling services and a social worker to address social emotional and mental health needs for students and staff.

For the provision of mental health services:

- School counselors will be available in each building.
- Salem City Schools has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Intercept for the provision of services for Beyond Anger Management (BAM) and Substance Abuse Counseling.
- Salem City Schools has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Mainstream Inc. for Clinical Impressions and At-Risk Assessments, and Individual Psychotherapy, and Group Therapy.
- Salem City Schools has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Thriveworks Counseling and Coaching for Group Therapy

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Salem City Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

Stakeholder committees were solicited for feedback on the plan. Including the CTE Advisory Committee, the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and the Local Special Education Advisory Committee. The opportunity for general public comment was advertised and offered at the June 8th School Board meeting. No input was received at that time, however if input is provided it will be taken into consideration during future updates to the plan.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2024), Salem City Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and Salem City Public Schools will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Salem City Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://www.salem.k12.va.us/covid19/>
- The plan is available in multiple languages [English and Spanish];
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Ruth Moran at 540-389-0130 to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Randy Jennings at 540-398-0130 or email at rjennings@salem.k12.va.us