

COVID Mitigation Protocols and Volunteers

In keeping with the [Henrico County Public Schools COVID-19 Health Plan](#), the volunteer program will be implemented in three tiers upon guidance from the HCPS Health Committee and Division Leadership Team. Volunteers will be required to complete a health screening, including a temperature check, before being allowed entry, as well as wear a multi-layered cloth covering (neck gaiter, bandannas, and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not acceptable) and practice social distancing at all times. The principal at the school decides if school-specific conditions allow for implementing the county-wide guidance and have the final decision on a school's Tier.

Tier 1 (High local transmission level): Volunteers may work outside.

Tier 2 (Substantial local transmission level): In addition to working outside, volunteers may make copies or work at the front desk sitting or standing at least six feet from others. Volunteers will not be permitted to work in classrooms, the cafeteria, and gym. This also includes any volunteering after instructional hours.

Tier 3 (Moderate local transmission level): Volunteers may volunteer in classrooms, cafeteria, and gym. They may work in proximity to students and staff as long as they wear a mask and practice social distancing.

FAQ

Q: When will we switch between tiers?

A: Every week, the HCPS Health Committee evaluates the criteria, which is correlated with the HCPS' Continuum of Reopening matrix. County updates are announced publicly at School Board meetings as part of the Health Committee Update. However, principals make the final decision and will communicate which Tier applies to the building, as school community conditions can vary.

Q: If I am fully vaccinated, do I have to wear a mask indoors at school?

A: Yes. School policy regarding masks remains unchanged. Given low rates of vaccination among children, the previous [Governor's Executive Order 72 v7](#) and current [Executive Order 79](#) require mask use in Virginia's K-12 schools of all students, teachers, staff, and visitors while on school property. This is consistent with CDC guidance which states that schools should continue with all current mitigation strategies through the end of the school year despite updated guidance for fully vaccinated people.

Q: Do volunteers need to wear a mask if outside?

A: Not always. Individuals outside that are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask when within six feet of others. However, individuals outside and at least six feet away from other people (ten feet if engaging in vigorous exercise) can remove their masks. Further, on May 18, the [Department of Education's guidance](#) and [Governor's FAQ](#) clarified that students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other individuals who are fully vaccinated can remove their masks while outside on school property.

Q: Can volunteers be used to wipe down playground equipment to allow student access?

A: Yes. HCPS is currently following CDC and VDH guidelines, which recommend regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces—including [playground equipment](#)—and staggering interactions between cohorts/classes. The decision about playground equipment use is a school-based decision. Each school has a unique staff capacity to meet this heavy cleaning demand, with most schools being unable at this time. Volunteers can fill these gaps if the principal believes the equipment can be available reliably for all cohort groups throughout the week.

Q: If volunteers are restricted to outside, will there be bathroom access?

A: Yes. To access a bathroom, the volunteer will need to complete a health screening, including a temperature check, and be escorted by a staff member to the available restroom.

Q: Do volunteers need to be vaccinated?

A: No. Remember, while all HCPS employees have the option to be vaccinated, not all chose to be.