

**#READY2RECONNECT: THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**



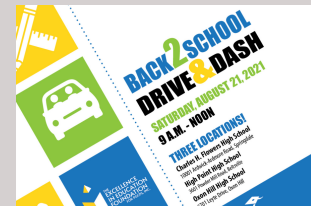
PGCPS is excited to welcome students back to the classroom for full-time, in-person learning — and #TeamPGCPS has been hard at work preparing learning environments with the health and safety of students as our top priority. In this week's newsletter you'll find information on our 2021-22 school year COVID-19 safety protocols, what to expect of the school day and answers to many frequently asked questions. Please join us next Wednesday, Aug. 25, for a Back-to-School telephone town with CEO Dr. Monica Goldson. We also encourage parents and guardians to visit our website for the latest back to school updates, to [sign up](#) for PGCPS news, and to visit your child's school website for additional information.

**WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK**

Back-to-School Countdown!



Drive & Dash This Saturday



Deadline Friday: K-6 Virtual Learning

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 8. Join us at one of three locations this Saturday to prepare and discuss the year ahead. The deadline to apply for the K-6 Virtual Learning program is Friday, August 20, 2021.

[2021-22 Calendar](#)

**TOP NEWS**

**NEXT WEEK: BACK-TO-SCHOOL TELEPHONE TOWN HALL**



Join us for a Back to School telephone town hall for families and community members on **Wednesday, Aug. 25 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** to learn more about the reopening of schools. You will automatically get a call from the school system at 6 p.m. If you do not get a phone call, please dial 844-734-8766 to join the town hall. The Spanish simultaneous interpretation line will be 508-924-5155.

## **NO SHOTS, NO SCHOOL: DON'T FORGET ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS!**

COVID-19 vaccination is highly encouraged for students 12 years and older but don't forget about routine immunizations for back to school! The Prince George's County Health Department is hosting clinics in August and September at multiple school sites and the Cheverly Health Center to bring students up-to-date on vaccinations. The clinics are targeted to families with little to no access to health care. Fees are on a sliding scale. Students with an appointment for routine immunizations may also receive a COVID-19 vaccination on site.

### **Upcoming Clinics (All clinics are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.):**

Aug. 23-25 — Bladensburg High School  
Aug. 30 & 31 — Oxon Hill High School  
Sept. 1 — Fairmont Heights High School  
Sept. 8-10 — Bladensburg High School  
Sept. 11, 18 and 25 — Cheverly Health Center

[Make Appointment](#)

## **NEW VACCINATION RULES FOR #TEAMPGCPS**



# A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson announced a new policy for the 2021-22 school year requiring all employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The mandate applies to staff at all school, office and other work sites. Employees must show proof of vaccination by Friday, Aug. 27 or submit to weekly on-site testing.

## #PGCPSPROUDTOBEPROTECTED: FIND A VACCINATION CLINIC



Students ages 12 and over are encouraged to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine ahead of the return to school. Parental consent is required for vaccination. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany their child to clinics, but are not required to do so. Students must bring completed consent forms to be vaccinated.

### Upcoming PGCPS Clinics

Thursday, Aug. 19: Mary Harris "Mother" Jones Elementary School, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 30: Mary Harris "Mother" Jones Elementary School, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[More info](#)

### Find & Schedule a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment

[Prince George's County Health Department clinics](#)

[Prince George's County Vaccine Locator](#)

## Maryland Vaccination Sites

### **Direct Providers**

#### *Pharmacies*

[CVS Pharmacy](#),

[Walgreens Pharmacy](#),

[Safeway Pharmacy](#),

[Giant Food Pharmacy](#),

[Walmart Pharmacy](#),

[Costco Pharmacy](#),

[Harris Teeter Pharmacy](#),

[Sankofa Health, Laurel](#)

[Laurel Main Street Pharmacy](#).

#### *Healthcare Providers*

Some hospital systems in Maryland are offering vaccinations to the public. Visit the websites of [MedStar](#), [Johns Hopkins](#), [Luminis](#), [Adventist Health](#), and [University of Maryland Medical System](#) for their latest info.

Primary care physicians and other healthcare providers may also provide the vaccine. Please contact them directly for more information.

## **BEFORE & AFTER CARE UPDATE**



Families with children attending schools with before and after care will receive details from our new Vendor Managed Childcare Program partners regarding pre-registration, enrollment and opening dates for before and after school services.

[Learn More](#)

**#READY2RECONNECT: HEALTH & SAFETY**





Our focus is on maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for students to learn together in classrooms all year. We will achieve this through prevention strategies including universal masking in school buildings and widespread vaccination. The [ReconnectPGCPS](#) page has details on our safety strategy.

#### **MASKS & PPE**

Students and staff are required to wear masks inside of schools, administrative buildings and on school buses, regardless of vaccination status. Extra face masks, hand sanitizer, paper towels, toilet paper and soap will be available throughout the day. Nurses, paraprofessionals and other staff who will have close contact with students, along with staff working with students with disabilities, will receive additional PPE such as gloves, face shields and disposal gowns.

#### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

At least 3-feet of social distancing will be maintained in classrooms and other areas where possible.

#### **VISITORS**

Visitors must make an appointment with the school prior to arrival and will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. Conferences with parents and other meetings that do not need to be held in person will be held virtually to limit the number of visitors entering school buildings.

#### **SCHOOL BUSES**

Face masks are required while riding the school bus. To improve airflow, windows may be open to the maximum extent possible when weather permits. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized at the conclusion of each run, in between morning and afternoon routes and at the conclusion of the day.

#### **CLEANING & DISINFECTION**

Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned using CDC approved disinfectants at the end of every school day. Cafeterias and other eating locations will be cleaned and disinfected daily. All touch points, door knobs, sinks, health rooms and locker rooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Restrooms will be inspected twice per day and sanitized when necessary.

#### **AIR QUALITY**

Airflow in buildings will be increased by opening classroom windows, running exhaust fans before/after occupancy and increasing HVAC hours of operation by 4 hours before and after occupation and /or increasing the intake of outside air where possible. MERV-13 filters have been installed in HVAC systems per CDC guidelines. PGCPS will continuously replace HVAC equipment and clean ductwork and coils throughout systems to remove contaminants and improve airflow.

#### **VACCINATIONS**

PGCPS recommends everyone 12 years and older to get a COVID-19 vaccination to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and our community. All staff are required to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing.

### QUARANTINES

School will provide written notification to staff or families following exposure to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case. If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case at a school or in a classroom, the employee or student with COVID-19 will be required to quarantine at home for at least 10 days and be symptom free before returning to a PGCPS building. Employees or students who were in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual must quarantine for at least 10 days if not fully vaccinated; fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine following exposure to a person with confirmed or probable COVID-19 but should monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

In the event a single positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed, PGCPS will close the exposed area of the facility. If multiple positive cases of COVID-19 are confirmed in one site within three days (minimum), PGCPS will close the entire facility to clean and sanitize all areas.

**To our families, we ask that you to ensure your scholars have everything they need to help us keep them and others safe. For additional details on our safety protocols, please view our [website](#).**

## #READY2RECONNECT: AT-A-GLANCE



**Masks** will be required for all students.

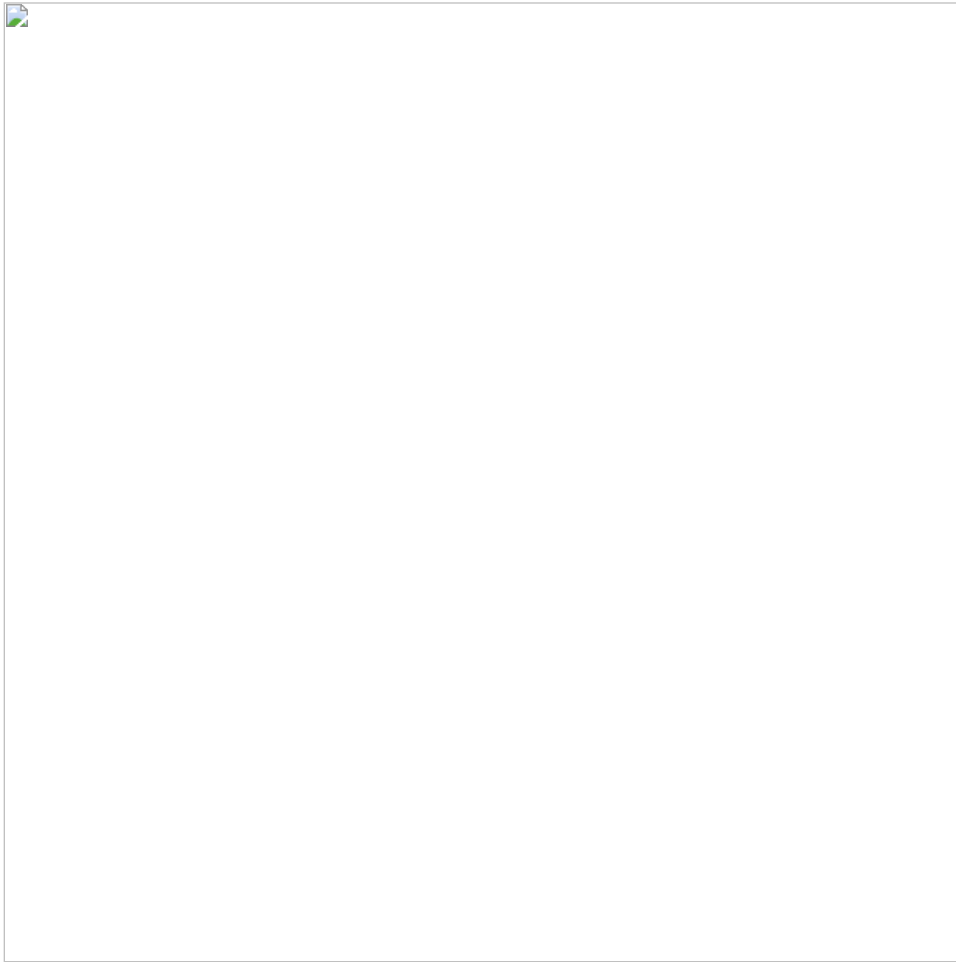
**Athletes** are required to wear a mask when not directly training. Athletes w compete without their masks.



**Uniforms** are required at schools with a policy.

**Bus info** will be available the week of Aug. 23.

## #READY2RECONNECT: STUDENT MEALS



Student meals are free for all this school year! Families still encouraged to complete the meal benefit application, which determines eligibility for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) and more. Households can apply for meal benefits online at [myschoolapps.com](https://myschoolapps.com).

**How will lunchtime work?**

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria or in designated areas determined by school administration. Elementary schools participating in Maryland Meals for Achievement Classroom Breakfast Program will have breakfast delivered to the classroom. When weather permits and space is evaluated for safety, meals may be taken outside. Principals will assess their building and develop procedures based on space availability.

**Meals for virtual learners**

Meal boxes consisting of breakfast, lunch and supper for five days will be available for pick up by virtual school students on Friday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. at regional meal distribution schools.

**#READY2RECONNECT: TRANSPORTATION**



Have a bus rider? You can expect to receive bus route information the week of August 23. All students will be required to wear a mask when riding the school bus. Also be sure to download the StopFinder school bus app from the App Store or Google Play to view student routes and bus location once school begins. Families must have an up-to-date email address in SchoolMax to activate the subscription. Questions about transportation may be submitted [here](#).