



APTS

Alternative Paths
Training School

Education • Consulting • Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Response Plan,
Learning Plan & Updates

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

UPDATES	4
What is the plan for a safe return to learning after the winter holiday?	4
What is the schedule for virtual learning beginning January 4, 2021?	4
What is the schedule for in-person learning beginning February 1, 2021?	4
Can I choose to have my child continue to access 100% virtual instruction?	4
Will the monthly professional development days/half-days for students resume?	5
KEEPING STUDENTS AND STAFF SAFE AND HEALTHY WHILE IN SCHOOL	6
What are APTS' sanitation, cleaning and disinfection protocols?	6
Do staff and students wear face-coverings?	6
How is social distancing maintained?	7
What are APTS' screening procedures?	7
Does APTS allow access to visitors?	7
How will APTS keep staff and students healthy and safe with the change in instructional schedule?	8
COVID-19 RESPONSE	9
What are the symptoms of COVID-19?	9
What is the definition of close contact?	9
What should I do if myself, my child or a member of my household are ill or have been exposed to COVID-19?	10
What happens if a staff or student displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?	10
What PPE will staff wear while waiting with a student with symptoms/exposure to COVID-19 for parent pick up?	11
How will I know when I/my child can return to school?	11
A member of the classroom is not here today, and I've heard they won't be coming back for several days, am I at risk?	11
What determines if a classroom or school needs to close in-person learning?	11
INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS	12
What public school division's inclement weather schedule does my campus follow?	12
What happens if my campus is closed due to inclement weather?	12
How can I be sure that my campus is open or closed?	13
Will meals be provided to free and reduced eligible students on inclement weather days?	13

UPDATES

What is the plan for a safe return to learning after the winter holiday?

All APTS students will access their learning virtually, on an increased schedule, from January 4, 2021 through January 29, 2021.

- The schedule will include direct instruction from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 2-3 hours of graded asynchronous work per day.
- APTS students choosing to return to in-person learning on February 1, 2021 will resume full day in-person instruction from 8:10 am to 3:15 pm.
- Additionally, APTS campus staff will continue to work remotely from through January 22, 2021. Administrative staff will return to buildings on January 21, 2021. All staff will return to buildings on January 25, 2021.

APTS remains committed to making available 100% virtual learning to families who choose to continue receiving virtual instruction for their child after January 29, 2021.

What is the schedule for virtual learning beginning January 4, 2021?

For virtual instruction, the hours of direct instruction will increase to two, 2-hour blocks per day, 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm starting January 4, 2021. Asynchronous materials will continue to be provided to students remaining virtual via post or online and should consist of 2 to 3 hours per day. All completed asynchronous materials will be reviewed and graded by the student's classroom teacher.

What is the schedule for in-person learning beginning February 1, 2021?

For in-person instruction, the daily schedule will begin at 8:10 am and end at 3:15 pm. The additional time that staff are onsite before and after the student school day will be utilized to ensure the safe transition of students during arrival and dismissal procedures, allow for thorough cleaning of classrooms and supplies and provide increased training opportunities for staff.

Can I choose to have my child continue to access 100% virtual instruction?

APTS is committed to making available 100% virtual learning to families who choose to continue receiving virtual instruction for their child after January 29, 2021.

Will the monthly professional development days/half-days for students resume?

Yes. The monthly professional development days for staff/half days for students will resume in January with the new instructional schedule. The updated calendar can be found on the APTS website.

KEEPING STUDENTS AND STAFF SAFE AND HEALTHY WHILE IN SCHOOL

What are APTS' sanitation, cleaning and disinfection protocols?

APTS follows the CDC guidelines for all cleaning and disinfection of schools. Teachers, staff, and contracted cleaning companies work together to ensure the building is thoroughly cleaned in accordance with the CDC guidelines. If a positive COVID-19 case is found, APTS will follow the guidance of the local health department to determine the areas of the school/building that require deep cleaning and determine if a school or office closure is needed to complete the cleaning.

Do staff and students wear face-coverings?

Face coverings are required for staff. Students are encouraged, but not required to wear a face-covering. Staff are provided with a cloth face mask to be washed daily. Personal protective equipment is also available for staff to wear when social distancing cannot be maintained including surgical masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields.

How is social distancing maintained?

Maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between individuals is one of the key strategies for reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. APTS staff and students are asked to maintain this distance whenever possible. Environmental changes have been made, such as spacing desks, providing floor markings, and installing signage, to serve as a reminder that distance should be maintained.

APTS recognizes that social distancing may not always be possible to be maintained and has obtained a variance from the state of Virginia regarding the recommended social distancing measure of 6 feet as the population of students served by our program may require staff to be in closer proximity to provide necessary support.

APTS works to minimize movement of individuals within the school by: 1) limiting the interchange of students and staff between classrooms; 2) by having a designated staff complete noncontact lunch delivery; 3) by creating site-based procedures to direct foot traffic throughout the building; and 4) by ensuring that restrooms can be used with appropriate social distancing and cleaning protocols.

What are APTS' screening procedures?

Student and staff temperatures are checked daily at the school entrance. Additionally, students are asked about, and observed for, symptoms of COVID-19. Any students exhibiting a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 are escorted to the quarantine room; parents/guardians are notified to come pick up their child immediately. Staff are required to self-screen prior to coming to work and keep a record of their self-screening to be reviewed periodically at random.

Does APTS allow access to visitors?

Visitors are not permitted into the building when school is in session unless absolutely required. Visitors are required to wear masks while inside the building or if they are outside the building and not able to properly socially distance. Meetings, tours, observations, etc. occur virtually utilizing Google Suites.

How will APTS keep staff and students healthy and safe with the change in instructional schedule?

APTS has thoroughly evaluated our classroom spaces, staffing and student numbers and determined that APTS can continue to follow our established health and safety measures with the increased student census. Classrooms have already been arranged to ensure that student desks can remain 6 feet apart even with increased student numbers upon the return to full day in-person instruction. APTS will continue to follow regulations that are put in place by the federal, state, and local governments, monitor changing environmental conditions, and gather feedback from stakeholders,

COVID-19 RESPONSE

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

From the CDC website:

“Most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Loss of speech or movement

Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.

On average it takes 5-6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days.

What is the definition of close contact?

As of October 21, 2020 the CDC updated the definition of close contact to the following:

Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

*Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).

What should I do if myself, my child or a member of my household are ill or have been exposed to COVID-19?

Students and staff are required to stay home and notify the campus immediately if:

- They are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or a fever
- They have had close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19
- They have had frequent close contact (e.g. living in the same home) with an individual that is displaying COVID-19 symptoms and/or is awaiting COVID-19 testing due to symptoms

The school nurse will provide additional recommendations on how to proceed.

What happens if a staff or student displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?

APTS follows detailed procedures if a staff member or student is suspected to have been exposed to COVID-19 or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 per the local area health department's recommendation. COVID-19 Response Teams established at each campus/building assists with quick, efficient, and informed responding. These procedures include:

- Immediately removing the student/staff to the designated quarantine area, with staff support, as needed;
- Notifying the parent/guardian to pick up the child in the designated time frame;
- Collaborating with the local health department to complete contact tracing;
- Notifying staff and families in accordance with the health department's recommendations; and
- Providing guidance on criteria to return to school based on guidance from the local health department.

Comprehensive COVID-19 response procedures can be found in the Reopening Plan of Action.

What PPE will staff wear while waiting with a student with symptoms/exposure to COVID-19 for parent pick up?

Our nursing department recommends that staff wear an N-95 mask, a face shield, a gown, and gloves while waiting with a student (with symptoms/exposure to COVID-19) for parent pick-up.

How will I know when I/my child can return to school?

Your school nurse will discuss this with you.

A member of the classroom is not here today, and I've heard they won't be coming back for several days, am I at risk?

No, the nursing team has worked with the health department to determine close contacts. If you are considered a close contact, you will be notified ASAP.

What determines if a classroom or school needs to close in-person learning?

The decision to move a classroom or school to virtual learning is based on health department recommendations, guidance from the school nurses and in collaboration with COVID-19 Response team members. APTS will continue to follow the guidance of the local health departments as well as any directives from the Commonwealth of Virginia to determine which conditions will trigger a reduction of in-person classes as well as a complete school building closure.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

What public school division's inclement weather schedule does my campus follow?

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED ON THE APTS WEBSITE:

On inclement weather days, APTS campus buildings will follow the corresponding public school divisions:

- Alexandria campus will follow Fairfax County Public Schools;
- Manassas Campus will follow Manassas City Public Schools;
- Stafford Campus will follow Stafford County Public Schools; and
- Central Administrative Office will follow Prince William County Public Schools

What happens if my campus is closed due to inclement weather?

In the event of school closures, APTS will, *in most cases*, shift to a virtual school day as follows:

- For inclement weather days with virtual classes, the school day for all students is in session from 10:00 am -3:00 pm, with a 1-hour break taken from 12-1pm.
- An email from the student's teacher will be sent out by 9:00 am on virtual learning days that will include the learning packet for that day.
- Asynchronous learning will also be provided.
- For situations in which a student's county of residence is closed but the APTS campus building is open, those students will automatically shift to the virtual sessions from 10 am - 3 pm.

How can I be sure that my campus is open or closed?

An announcement will be made by 6:00 am via social media and on the APTS website whether:

- Specific APTS buildings are open as usual;
- Any building will open on a two-hour delayed basis;
- Any building is closed and classes have shifted to virtual for the day, or
- APTS is closed for the day resulting from power outages or other extreme circumstances.

Will meals be provided to free and reduced eligible students on inclement weather days?

APTS will periodically send home pre-packed meals to free and reduced eligible children in anticipation of unforeseen cancellations. When inclement weather is being predicted for a particular day by meteorologists, APTS will do its best to send home ahead of time a pre-packed meal for eligible students