



Anne Arundel County Public Schools | Reopening 2021–22

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Procedure for Employees

AACPS follows the professional and expert recommendations of local and state health officials, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make informed decisions regarding the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.

Please note that public health data and information which informs such recommendations are subject to change. AACPS will make modifications in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements.

Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in progressive discipline.



Face Coverings/Masks

- AACPS will provide **five washable, cloth, reusable face coverings** to each employee.
- **The CDC recommends face coverings in public** and when not around members of the same household to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- **Wearing at least a cloth face covering is mandated when indoors and essential to limiting the spread of COVID-19.** Face coverings other than medical-grade and cloth ones that fit snugly around the nose, close to cheeks, and under the chin, e.g., neck gaiters, are not permitted.
- Physical distancing measures, face shields, and other personal protections **may not be utilized in lieu of masks.**
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents allow respiratory droplets to escape and do not provide enough protection from the spread of COVID-19 to others. **The CDC does not recommend the use of masks with exhalation valves or vents.** Such masks should be used in combination with a cloth face covering.
- **All AACPS employees, contractors, and visitors in our Central and Satellite offices and our schools will be required to be masked at any time during which they are in the proximity of someone else regardless of age or vaccination status.**
- **More guidance for face coverings for employees** can be found at www.aacps.org/safetyprotocols.



Face Shields

- AACPS will provide approved **face shields for employees based on health, work, or unique needs on a case-by-case basis.**
- A face shield is **primarily used for eye protection** for the person wearing it. The CDC does not currently recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings or masks.
- Employees may wear face shields in addition to cloth face coverings.
- **Deaf/hard of hearing individuals or employees who work directly with deaf/hard of hearing individuals may opt to wear a hooded face shield** that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below the chin. AACPS will also provide this type of covering to students when required by an identified accommodation.
- Individuals who wear face shields should follow **CDC guidelines for face shield cleanliness.** www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html

PPE Procedure for Employees



Acrylic Shields

- AACPS will purchase acrylic barriers to be installed by individual office/school staff for offices that have employees who come in frequent, direct contact with the public. Schools will have two acrylic shield stations per building which may require shifting tasks to alternate locations.
- Acrylic shields are designed as **protective barriers from airborne particles**.
- Acrylic shields may be **utilized by offices that have employees who have frequent, direct contact with the public**.
- Acrylic shields are **not replacements for required face coverings**. All employees who are in offices that have acrylic shields installed must also wear at least a cloth face covering.



Accommodations for Speciality Site In-Person Instruction and Services

- Developmental centers and other specialty site classes where employees will provide **close contact services to students** will identify needs and purchase PPE accordingly. Such needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. These employees may also complete the Specialized PPE Request Form to address additional needs.
- Hooded face covering options and gloves are available for employees and students who need them. This PPE will be provided prior to the delivery of educational service or in-person interactions at developmental centers..
- Advice on working with students who have difficulty wearing masks will be shared with employees and provided to parents, especially at developmental centers.



Purchasing Additional PPE

Schools and/or offices that would like to **purchase additional PPE** must contact the AACPS Budget Office at (410) 222-5150.