



SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon, Division Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair
James D. Pope, III, Vice-Chair

March 16, 2021

Dear Southampton Middle School Families:

An individual at Southampton Middle School has reported that he/she is positive for COVID-19. They have identified multiple persons as close contacts (within six feet for fifteen minutes cumulatively). Those individuals have been notified. Nevertheless, because of the number of individuals identified as close contacts, Southampton Middle School will be closed for the remainder of the week for cleaning and precautionary reasons. There will be no classes face-to-face or virtually until Monday, March 22, 2021. The makeup days and times will be announced soon. If your child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, you should contact your child’s healthcare provider.

Parents should continue to monitor the health of their child(ren), as well as their own health for [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Children with COVID-19 generally have mild, cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported in some children. Children with certain underlying medical conditions, such as chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, or weak immune systems, might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

We will continue to utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations on [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](#) to reduce viral transmission and keep our children and school personnel healthy and safe. Parents and students can assist with this effort by promoting healthy behaviors and following these practices:

- Stay home from school or work if sick, even if symptoms are mild.
- Wear a face covering in areas where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue (or sleeve), and then throw the tissue in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Take care of your health overall. Stay current on your vaccinations, including the flu vaccine, eat well, and exercise to help your body stay resilient.

The [Virginia Department of Health](#) provides information about COVID-19 and [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#) from parents and concerned family members. The CDC offers [tips](#) to keep children healthy during this time. The Virginia Department of Education produced [COVID-19: A Parent Guide for School-Age Children](#) and provides additional considerations for [students with disabilities](#), [guidance for military families](#), and [social-emotional wellness for parents and caregivers](#).

Yours in health,

Gwendolyn Shannon, Ph.D.
Division Superintendent

Helpful websites: [http:// www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov);
<http://www.cdc.gov>

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