

Frequently Asked Questions About PGCPS & Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Revised March 25, 2020

Please be assured that PGCPS is monitoring the status of the virus and any current guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Governor Northam and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As we receive new information that impacts schools or questions from our families, we will update this page.

When will schools reopen?

On March 23, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam ordered all public schools in Virginia to close for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

It is important for all students and families to know that our buildings are closed but our schools are still in session. Our teachers and instructional staff will be creating and providing new content – content that was not covered prior to March 13 – and we will be working to ensure all students have the supports they need to successfully complete assignments.

What happens now?

With the extended closure of schools through the end of the 2019-20 school year, division and school staff have been working to develop plans to ensure that students receive instruction that will prepare them for the next steps in their academic or work careers. The plans we have developed are in alignment with guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, and there are a few areas where we are awaiting additional information. Families were provided details specific to grade levels in an email from the Superintendent on March 25.

[Update] How can my child get healthy meals during the closure?

PGCPS will offer breakfast and lunch to ALL students who attend PGPS. The Food and Nutrition Services Department and the Transportation Department will deliver **one breakfast and one lunch per student on Mondays and two meals for breakfast and two meals for lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-noon**. Households with more than one child need only have one child present to collect meals for other children in the household.

To help with planning, families are asked to fill out a [Google Form](#) so we can prepare as many meals as needed.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Sites

- Bexley Trailer Park
- Oak Shades Trailer Park
- Country Aire Trailer Park
- The Commons
- Disputanta Library on 460

- Puddledock Place Apartments
- Jefferson Point Apartments
- Pine Ridge Trailer Park
- Manning Trailer Park
- Fort Lee Youth Center
- Fort Lee School Age Center
- North Elementary (Drive Thru Pick Up at Student Drop Off)
- Moore Middle School (Drive Thru Pick Up at Student Drop Off)

Will my student have to take SOL exams?

The State Superintendent will ask for a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education. The USDOE Secretary Betsy DeVos has stated that waivers will be granted to schools that closed due to COVID-19. Since state assessments are required by Virginia Code, action will have to be taken by the General Assembly to finalize any waivers regarding testing, accreditation, and graduation. We will provide details as soon as they are available.

I'm the parent of a senior. Will my child get his/her diploma?

We know the closure of schools is very disappointing to our seniors and their families. The staff of PGHS, PGEC, and the entire PGCPs family understand and share that disappointment. **Prince George County seniors will be required to finish currently enrolled courses to meet graduation requirements.** Every senior will be contacted by a staff member from PGHS or PGEC and will be advised if they need to finish course content only or if they need a waiver for one or more graduation requirements, as identified by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

Will there be a graduation ceremony?

We haven't given up on a graduation ceremony, we just do not know if it will be in June or later in the summer. We also have a team looking at ways to celebrate other milestones for our seniors – even if we have to celebrate digitally. More information will be provided as details are finalized.

What about Advanced Placement (AP) exams? Will they be available for my student to take to earn college credit?

The College Board announced that AP tests will now be administered online at home on two dates, to be announced by April 3rd. To be fair to students nationwide, exams will only include topics and skills that most AP teachers and students have already covered in class by early March. The College Board will provide free AP review sessions on their website to help prepare students for the exams. For more information, visit the College Board's [coronavirus website](#).

What about the May 2, 2020, SAT exam date?

In response to COVID-19, the College Board has cancelled the May 2, 2020, SAT and all other scheduled March makeup exams. Students who registered to take these exams will receive refunds. The College Board will

provide additional SAT testing opportunities as soon as feasible in place of cancelled administrations. More details: <http://spr.ly/60181subj>.

What is the impact on ACT testing?

ACT has rescheduled the April 4, 2020, national ACT test date to June 13, 2020, in response to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19. ACT will communicate directly with all students currently registered for the April 4, 2020, ACT test. For additional information please visit www.ACT.org.

Do you have any information about Dual Enrollment courses?

Dual Enrollment is a partnership between the school division and local community colleges. We have planning meetings scheduled and will share information as soon as it is available.

I am not a teacher and am a little uncertain about how to help my child with their schoolwork. What should I do?

As we continue with school closures, it is important for you to continue to support your child's learning, but we do not expect you to be able to be his/her classroom teacher. We will keep giving families support through online resources and paper packets, and by maintaining teacher office hours for specific questions or concerns. We will be here to support you through this.

Remember, the daily activities of your home can also be learning opportunities – cooking using recipes (math, reading); taking a walk and identifying plants and animals (physical education, science); telling family stories and taking notes (history, writing); and playing board games (reading, math, history, science).

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a type of virus that were first identified in the 1960s. The most recently discovered coronavirus that we are hearing so much about is a new or novel coronavirus, and the disease associated with this virus is officially called COVID-19. This virus is now spreading from human to human globally.

For more details on COVID-19, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/).

What if I have a question or concern that I need answered during the closure?

During the course of the closure, PGCPs staff will monitor School Board Office and school voicemail boxes. Additionally, your child's teachers will monitor their emails during set work hours. You should have received your teachers' specific work hours. If you did not, please visit your child's school webpage for that information.

I have an IEP or other Special Education meeting scheduled. Are Special Education meetings cancelled?

Annual or triennial reviews of IEPs and 504s or the requirements to hold child find or eligibility meetings will be held as scheduled during the closure, with provisions allowing for them to be conducted electronically. Parents with scheduled meetings will be contacted and provided additional information.

Are after-school activities, events or sports cancelled?

All school-related activities, sports and events are cancelled for the remainder of the school year.

What can I do to help prevent the spread of illness?

Our school nurses and staff worked with students to promote good hygiene and to keep everyone healthy and safe. We also are working with our custodial staff to ensure our schools receive thorough cleaning. Parents are asked for help in reinforcing healthy practices at home with children.

Below are reminders to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a lined trash bin.
- Take flu antivirals if prescribed by your health care provider if you have the flu.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

As a best practice for overall health in cold and flu season, the VDH recommends that individuals get a flu shot.

Do you have any advice as to how I should talk with my younger student about coronavirus and COVID-19?

There is a very good resource available on the KidsHealth.org website for discussing the virus with your student: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

Who do I contact if I have questions?

If parents or guardians have questions about illness or symptoms, or how to prevent respiratory infection, we encourage you to contact the VDH Hotline: 877-275-8343 (877-ASK-VDH3) or your personal health care provider.

Where can I get updates?

The [CDC](#) and [VDH](#) are updating their information regularly. School-related information is available on [this site](#) and will be updated as needed. Please refer only to official PCPS websites and social media accounts since incorrect information may be posted on unofficial accounts.