

COVID-19 Health Mitigation Plans for Field School July 2020 Draft

Statement Regarding Schooling and the Field School Approach during the COVID Pandemic

Field School is committed to opening classes this year safely and in-person. To those ends, we have taken a number of safety conscious, mission-consistent, good practice-based steps to prepare for the coming school year. Those steps include physical plant enhancements including improving airflow, filtration, and conditioning; the enhancement of our tradition of using the outdoors as both a classroom and a setting for learning; new protocols around screening before attending school, wearing masks, social distancing during the day, personal hygiene and institutional cleaning and disinfecting spaces; limiting enrollment based on distancing guidelines and using grade-level based cohort grouping to limit potential exposure; and preparing an in-person program with online education flexibility as needed to serve our boys and our mission.

While the COVID pandemic has created significant challenges and disruptions for our society, it has also highlighted something we all know – the importance of community and for us to one another. The Field School motto of “Every boy known, every boy a brother” is rooted in community, in the notions of knowing and of caring for and about one another. The best COVID responses are based on knowledge and on care for ourselves and for one another. Always, but particularly so in the age of COVID, we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers with a responsibility to act in ways that are at times personally inconvenient or difficult for the good of our community.

Demonstrations of our commitment to community and to one another are now a part of our daily life. It starts in the morning, before coming to school, when parents and students perform a health screening and assure themselves, and our community, they are able to come to school. It continues in the day when everyone wears a face covering, maintains social distance, wash their hands regularly, and practice good personal hygiene. It includes the unavoidable inconvenience of a doctor visit when a boy has a fever or a cough or congestion that, in the past, we would just chalk up to allergies or the sniffles.

We’re not sure how things will play out in the coming weeks and months, but starting school in-person is something we believe is important; it is something that does contain some degree of risk for all involved; and it will be most successful when we act from a community-filled perspective, understanding of the complexity of the issues involved, and forbearance as we, the Field School community, work, live, and learn together through is difficult time.

Planning to Reopen

- Establish a COVID-19 team within the school and a point person at each school.

The Field School COVID-19 team is

Charles H. Skipper, Ph.D.	Head of School
Leo Connally	Assistant Head of School
Tracy Kunkel	Director of External Affairs and Administration
Adie Petite	Business Manager
Patrick Critzer	Chef

- Know the contact information and procedures for reaching the local health department.

Our contact person at the Thomas Jefferson Health District Office is

Ryan L. McKay, MPA
 Senior Policy Analyst
 Thomas Jefferson Health District
 o: 434.972.6295
 m: 434.365.0027
ryan.mckay@vdh.virginia.gov

We have both telephone and email connections. We are also in close contact via Patrick Critzer with the local health and sanitation department.

- Plan for health and absenteeism monitoring/approaches.

We have an online screening form for families and faculty and staff to complete daily. The system notifies us of any students or faculty/staff who are ill while also notifying the family to stay home. Our school SIS system will allow us to track absences and ensure that periods of time needed for isolation or quarantine are respected. When students arrive, parents will remain in the car while students have their temperature taken while they are visually checked.

- Develop a communications strategy that includes:

We will conduct orientation and training for staff and students specific to new COVID-19 mitigation strategies. At Field School, these strategies include:

- a. New screening approaches for online reporting before leaving home and then arrival to school
- b. Heightened cleaning and disinfecting practices
- c. COVID-19 Health Safety training for
 - a. Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette,
 - b. Use of face coverings,
 - c. Staying home when sick,
 - d. Requiring physical distancing.
- d. New classroom layouts and operations
- e. Our response protocols to a suspected or positive case of COVID-19
 - a. Tentative Thresholds for action and action (Under review by Health Authorities)
 - i. In a morning screening before coming to school, if a student has a temperature above 100.4° or is experiencing symptoms like a sore throat, runny nose, body ache, cough, loss of taste/smell, or upset stomach, they should not come to school.

- ii. If a student arrives with a temperature or develops one during the day, or becomes ill during the day, they will be sent home. If they were at school, there area will undergo a deep cleaning and be disinfected
- iii. If there is a positive COVID student in a cohort, the cohort goes online for 2 weeks
- iv. If there is a positive COVID student in more than 1 cohort, FS goes online for 2 weeks.
- v. If there is a positive COVID faculty or staff member in regular contact with students, FS goes online for 2 weeks
- b. Our communications protocols
 - i. Student absent – no action
 - ii. Student report of suspected close contact exposure – monitor
 - iii. Student reported positive test – communicate positive test and cohort group* to community
 - iv. Faculty/staff reported positive test – report to community of faculty/staff positive test and appropriate actions
 - v. Overall messages to families
 - 1. We’re going to support one another
 - 2. Sharing information allows us to protect one another

*Our students will stay in cohort groups that are also their grade level groupings throughout their day at Field School.

- Plans for communication with staff, parents, and students of new policies;

The plans will be communicated in multiple ways including via email, on the website, and through direct instruction and contact.

- Plans for how to communicate an outbreak or positive cases detected at the school.

In the case of an outbreak or positive case at Field School a message will be sent to the community alerting everyone to the positive result and the school action based on our protocols.

For those in direct contact with a person with a positive COVID-test, we will contact the Health Department and those involved directly with a phone call.

A message outlining the protocols for returning to school will also be sent to those with a positive COVID-19 test result or in direct contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result. The rules for return are:

- In cases where a student or faculty member was not allowed to come to school due to symptoms, a doctor’s note stating that the symptoms were likely related to another, non-COVID, illness.
- The expiration of mandatory wait periods based on the date of exposure or, in the case of close contact, two weeks after three days since the last symptom of the ill parent, guardian, or student.

- Participate in community response efforts

Field School has and will continue to participate in community response efforts.

- Prepare your school's student health services:

Field School does not have a school nurse or onsite health services. We have an infirmary that also has room for isolation if needed. We have adequate health supplies to provide appropriate care until a child can be picked-up.

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Our education/training plan for staff, students and families is a multi-prong, multi-step process.

- The first level is COVID-19 prevention education (hand washing, staying home if ill, etc.) that is undertaken in the first instance as part of our communications on expectations, and then through online/in-person training for faculty/staff, students, and parents. The key elements include our expectations regarding:
 - Disclosure of illness
 - Hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and good personal hygiene
 - The use of face coverings,
 - Staying home when sick,
 - Our social distancing rules and practices.
- We have acquired and will maintain adequate supplies to promote healthy hygiene.
- We have posted signs and messaging to promote healthy hygiene.
- In order to promote physical distancing, FS has
 - Conducted an analysis of each school space and modified enrollment accordingly.
 - Based on the space analysis we have altered the layouts of classrooms, and communal areas to ensure social distancing is maintained. If we use busing, the same principles will be used.
 - We have developed strategies for food/dining services; these should be consistent with plans to optimize physical distancing.
 - We have limited the size of gatherings consistent with Executive Orders and impose strict physical distancing place during gatherings – Designed for implementation
 - We are complying with the relevant Virginia Phase Guidance for Schools and CDC guidance for recreational sports for school-related sports and other recreational activities.
 - We are also encouraging the use of the outdoors for classes and other activities (which is part of longstanding FS practice).

Maintaining Healthy Environments

- FS will conduct two layers of daily health screening for faculty/staff and students. One is done at home before coming to school, and the second is a screening before coming into the school.
- Hygiene Practices

- Use cleaning and disinfection protocols for frequently touched surfaces; transport vehicles; schedule increased cleaning, routine cleaning, and disinfection; ensure adequate cleaning supplies and correct use/storage.
- We will provide additional hand sanitizer/ hand washing stations in each classrooms as well as outdoors.
- We are adjusting our practice to minimize sharing to the extent possible.
- We have ensured ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air. There are two ways we will be addressing this area. The first is by adding tents and using them for some classes and other outdoor activities (a long Field School tradition). The second is the addition of classroom mini-split systems along with MERV 13 level filtration.
- We have ensured that water systems and features are safe to use including adding touch-less sinks and toilets. We are also ensuring social distance for use of those facilities.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Implement protections for staff and children at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

For those at higher risk, they have the option to engage in online learning or request other accommodations.

- Align plans for gatherings, field trips and volunteer restrictions consistent with any Executive Order in place.

We have suspended field trips and any in-person large gatherings such as our daily meeting. If large gatherings will take place, they will be done virtually. Volunteer guidelines are being developed consistent with Executive Orders in place, and until that is completed, volunteers will not be involved in the school.

- We have implemented sick leave policies and practices that require faculty, staff and students to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed.
- We are adding and training staff and creating processes to ensure continuity of operations.

Protecting Vulnerable Individuals

- Create policy options to support those at higher risk for severe illness to limit their exposure risk (e.g. telework, modified job duties, virtual learning opportunities).

For those at higher risk, they have the option to engage in distance learning and/or engage in higher levels of safety and hygiene (using masks even when outdoors or using greater social distance rules).

- Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable faculty, staff and students to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed.

We have flexible sick leave policies and practices and, in fact, require faculty and students to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed.

- We have developed policies for return to class/work after COVID-19 illness.

Returning to class/work is based on the timeline of illness or exposure. We have the ability to track the times involved for individuals through our School Information System (SIS). Class work missed will be made up as it has been done in the past based on consultation with the faculty.

- Mental health support is available through community resources consistent with our past practices along with in-house programs we are planning on offering to our community.

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

- We will separate and isolate those who present with symptoms.
- We will call parents, given the age of our students, for safe transportation of those of who are sick to home or healthcare facility.
- We will implement cleansing and disinfection procedures of areas used by sick individuals.
- We will communicate with local health department to initiate public health investigation, contact tracing and consultation on next steps.

In the case of an outbreak or positive case at Field School a message will be sent to the community alerting everyone. For those in direct contact with a person with a positive COVID-test, we will contact those involved directly via message and a phone call. A message outlining the protocols for returning to school will also be sent to those with a positive COVID-19 test result or in direct contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result.

Planning to Close

- The following are conditions that will trigger a reduction in in-person classes.
 - A positive COVID test in a class for either a student or the teacher
 - A directive to do so from authorities
- Conditions will trigger school closing and moving to an online environment.
 - Governmental action to close schools
 - Tentative Thresholds for action and action (being reviewed by our Health Advisory Team and the Thomas Jefferson Health Department)
 - If a child arrives with a temperature or develops one during the day, or becomes ill during the day, they will be sent home. If they were at school, there area will undergo a deep cleaning and be disinfected
 - If there is a positive COVID student in a cohort, the cohort goes online for 2 weeks
 - If there is a positive COVID student in more than 1 cohort, FS goes online for 2 weeks.
 - If there is a positive COVID faculty or staff member in regular contact with students, FS goes online for 2 weeks