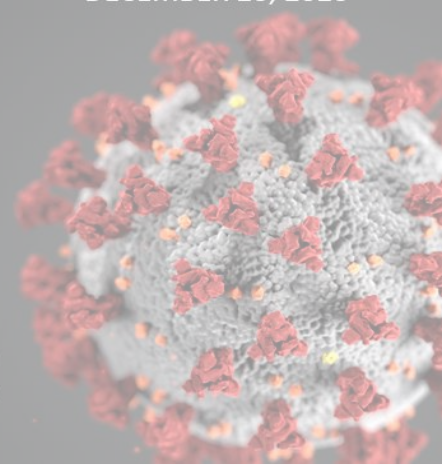


# CORONAVIRUS COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

News to keep our school community up to date during the Coronavirus crisis



*Winter Break Message  
from the Superintendent*

Greetings NPS Family,

With the winter break quickly approaching, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for all of your hard work and dedication over the last several months to ensure that we are providing positive virtual learning experiences for our students during these uncertain times. As administrators, teachers, and staff, you have worked tirelessly to create a seamless transition for our students and families. I know this has been no easy task, and I extend my sincerest gratitude for your tremendous efforts.

Additionally, I want to thank our students and families for continuing to adapt and remain flexible as we navigate these uncharted waters together. None of us quite knew what to expect or how long we would have to endure these uncertain times. However, our strong partnership with our families have sustained us through the challenges. Education has always been a collaborative effort, and this holds true now more than ever. The support from our parents, guardians, and community in this journey is truly invaluable.

As we look ahead to 2021, I know there is a lot to reflect upon with all that has transpired this year. I am proud to lead a school division that has the resilient ability to rise to any challenge while balancing our commitment to cultivating an atmosphere of equity and academic excellence. My hope is that you will get some well-deserved rest over the winter break so that upon your return, you will be rejuvenated to close out this extremely unique first semester of the school year stronger than ever.

Wishing everyone a very happy, relaxing, and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong  
Superintendent of Schools

## Norfolk School Board Votes to Revise Decision for Phased Return to In-Person Instruction

During their business meeting held on December 16, 2020, the Norfolk School Board voted to revise its previous decision to support a return to school plan that is now based on the status of the recommended three core indicators outlined within the [CDC's Indicators for Dynamic Decision Making](#), which includes case incidence per 100,000 persons within the past 14 days, percent positivity (RT-PCR test) during the past 14 days, and the school division's readiness to implement key mitigation strategies as outlined by the CDC.

When case incidence per 100,000 and percent positivity (RT-PCR test) both reach the moderate risk of disease transmission level (yellow) for 14 consecutive days in the City of Norfolk, the school division may begin implementing its phased approach to in-person instruction as previously approved:

- Phase One – Equity and Opportunity students, specifically students with disabilities (K-12 students in self-contained classrooms) and English learners (K-12 students in levels 1, 2, and some 3). The students with disabilities in this phase will attend school four days per week.
- Phase Two – Kindergarten through Grade 3 (hybrid model)
- Phase Three – Grades 4 and 5 (hybrid model) - The possibility of returning prekindergarten students will be reviewed.
- Phase Four – Grades 6 through 8 (hybrid model)
- Phase Five – Grades 9 through 12 (hybrid model)

While the school board approved the moderate risk of disease transmission level for students' return to school, they approved the district readiness indicator (implementation of all 5 mitigation strategies) at the lower risk of disease transmission level (light green). As a reminder, these 5 mitigation strategies include: consistent and correct use of masks; social distancing of at least six feet; hand hygiene; cleaning and disinfecting; and contact tracing.

A hybrid model will be followed in all phases unless otherwise noted, in which students will attend school in-person two days per week and receive teacher-led virtual instruction two days a week. Wednesdays will remain as asynchronous learning days for all students. A review of current health metrics and other pertinent factors will support the administration's decision in this process. The NPS Health Metrics Dashboard is live and will be updated daily to provide a snapshot of the data used as part of this decision-making process. The dashboard is live on the homepage of the school division's website: [npsk12.com](https://npsk12.com).

Parents/guardians still have the option for their children to remain in the current virtual learning format for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. The window to opt-in or opt-out of the Virtual Scholars Academy (VSA) will open on January 4, 2021, for the beginning of the second semester in February. To find out more about the VSA program, visit [npsk12.com/Domain/6089](https://npsk12.com/Domain/6089).

# New Norfolk Health Metrics Dashboard Now LIVE



Norfolk Public Schools has launched a new dashboard for easy tracking of health metrics. The dashboard, which will be updated daily, features all the Centers for Disease Control's core indicators that NPS will use in determining the date that students will begin to return to in-person learning:

- Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days
- Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days
- Ability of schools to implement 5 key mitigation strategies

The dashboard can be viewed on the homepage of the division's website: [npsk12.com](https://npsk12.com).

## [ VSA Opt-in/Opt-Out Window Opens January 4, 2021 ]

The window to opt-in/opt-out of the NPS Virtual Scholars Academy (VSA) for the second semester beginning on February 1, 2020, is from **January 4 - 22, 2021**.

Parents/guardians may contact their child(ren)'s principal via phone or email during this timeframe to discuss participation. There is no further action required for parents/guardians of students who are currently enrolled in the program and wish to continue for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

**NOTE:** The VSA course work and instructional format will continue in the same manner throughout the school year, even if a decision is made to implement a blended (virtual/face-to-face) instructional model following the first semester.



## NPS School Board Seeking Input on Policies



The School Board of the City of Norfolk would like your input on the following two policies and the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that are scheduled to be voted on at the January 20, 2021, School Board meeting:

- [School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) \(vote on Jan. 20, 2021\)](#)
- [Policy KNAJ - Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities \(2nd reading\)](#)
- [Policy JM - Restraint and Seclusion of Students \(2nd Reading\)](#)

Your input is valuable in our decision-making on policies and procedures governed by the School Board. Please click on the link to submit your public comments that will go directly to the School Board via e-mail. Your comments will be posted on the agenda for the January 20, 2021, board meeting.

To review these policies and submit your comments, [please visit the School Board Information section of the NPS website.](#)

## Grab N Go Meals Winter Break Schedule

### December Update

#### Holiday Break Schedule

- Meal distribution times during break will be from **11:00 am - 1:00 pm**
- No meal service on 12/22. 2 days of meals will be distributed on 12/21
- No meal service on 12/24 and 12/25. 3 days of meals will be distributed on 12/23. There will be no weekend meals
- No meal service on 12/29. 2 days of meals will be distributed on 12/28
- No meal service on 12/31 and 1/1. 3 days of meals will be distributed on 12/30. There will be no weekend meals

#### SITES OPEN DURING WINTER BREAK

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Granby High          | • James Monroe     |
| • Norview High         | • Ocean View       |
| • Azalea Gardens       | • Oceanair         |
| • Lake Taylor School   | • PB Young         |
| • Northside            | • Sewells Point    |
| • Bay View             | • Sherwood         |
| • Camp Allen           | • St. Helena       |
| • Chesterfield         | • Campostella STEM |
| • Coleman Place        | • Tanners Creek    |
| • Crossroads           | • Tarrallton       |
| • Larchmont            | • Willard          |
| • Booker T. Washington |                    |

