



Currituck County Schools

A Beacon for Excellence in Education

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As we begin the 2020-2021 school year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, please be assured the health and safety of your child and the community are the primary goal for our school system. Currituck County Schools and Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) have partnered with school districts across the region to coordinate efforts and best practices to ensure compliance and communication during these unprecedented times. Through this partnership, we will follow the data, and state and federal guidance, to ensure we are making the best possible decisions for our community. During this time, it is important to all work together to lessen COVID-19 impact to our families and community.

In our effort to communicate what to expect throughout the school year, we will provide updates and additional information on COVID-19 protocols and procedures. Currituck County Schools and Albemarle Regional Health Services will work together once a teacher, staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19. Our goal is to communicate what we can, while protecting privacy, to maintain trust with those we work with and serve. As we are made aware of confirmed cases, Currituck County Schools will take direction from Albemarle Regional Health Services and our local public health department, who will initiate communication with individuals as necessary.

ARHS will follow the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) guidelines on contact tracing of all individuals who may have had close contact with a positive case. Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes (cumulative), of a confirmed case patient. Caregivers and household members are considered close contact.

When close contacts are identified, Albemarle Regional Health Services works with the patient and the school system to ensure all contacts are properly notified in a timely manner. Currituck County Schools and Albemarle Regional Health Services will adhere to the following:

- Local health department staff will contact the confirmed case patient and determine all people that patient has been in close contact with during the period they are contagious. Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes (cumulative), of a confirmed case patient. Caregivers and household members are considered close contact.
- Only those who had close contact with the confirmed case patient during the period they were contagious (defined as the date the patient developed symptoms up to the time the patient went into isolation) are notified.
- Local health department staff will instruct the contact to monitor for symptoms twice a day for 14 days from the date of last contact with the confirmed case patient or for 14 days after the confirmed case patient's isolation ends if in continued contact throughout their illness (household members, care-givers).

Currituck County Schools understands the importance of communication, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS § 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws. We look forward to working together to serve our children's health, safety, and academic needs.