

# Planning for the 2020–2021 School Year

July 21, 2020



# Recap of Board Resolution

- June 8, 2020 Order of State Health Commissioner
- June 9, 2020 *Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools* issued by Governor
- June 29, 2020 School Board passes resolution endorsing concept of hybrid model implemented with general adherence to *Phase Guidance* and a 100% distance learning option
- LCPS has consistently emphasized that decisions will be based on conditions, and that plans are subject to change given how much is unknown



# New Information Since Board Resolution



Insight from Extended School Year program



Processing time for local tests



Information regarding how quarantines, isolations, and school closures would affect instruction



Insights from school-level planning



New data relating to child care and leaves of absences

Based on the latest information we have, LCPS believes the school year should start with **100% distance learning**, with very limited or no exceptions, and proceed with **implementing the planned hybrid model in stages.**



# Key Benefits of Staged Implementation of the Hybrid Model

- Enhances capacity of the division to **consistently** implement crucial **public health precautions**, including consistent physical distancing and use of face coverings
- Supports **effective testing and contact tracing**, and reduces anxiety due to whether symptomatic individuals are positive
- Provides **more consistent, higher-quality learning** experiences for students
- Increases the likelihood that LCPS can **meet staffing needs**



# Public Health Benefits

- Scales the implementation of public health precautions in **several stages**, rather than immediate, full-scale implementation
- **Implement, monitor, and enforce** crucial public health precautions, including consistent physical distancing and use of face coverings, with an initial stage of in-person learning
- **Increase scale after assessing the consistency of adherence** to physical distancing and face covering guidance, as well as public health data and other data
- Each new stage of **scaling up implementation** would be contingent upon assessing implementation of the previous stage, as well as public health conditions and other data available at that time



# Effective Testing and Contact Tracing

- The increase in cases nationally, particularly in the south, has been associated with an **increase in time for processing local results** by private labs
- Delaying full implementation of the hybrid model provides Inova Hospital the opportunity to **reduce the processing time for local tests**
- Faster processing of tests supports contact tracing and leads to quarantining positive cases sooner, **limiting the spread.**
- Reducing the time to receive test results can **reduce anxiety** among others who know someone left school with a fever and is awaiting test results



# Higher Quality Learning Experiences

- **Inconsistent implementation** of both physical distancing and recommended face covering practices greatly **increases the likelihood of disruptions** to learning caused by quarantines, isolations and school closures
- **Consistent implementation decreases the likelihood** of disruptions to learning caused by quarantines, isolations, and school closures
- Starting the year with a 100% distance learning model would allow instructional staff members to focus more on **strengthening** the instructional value of **the distance learning model**





# Meeting Staffing Needs

- **Child-care** related leave, as well as **resignations and leaves** relating to lack of confidence pertaining to public health precautions, affects ability to meet staffing needs
- If LCPS starts the year with 100% distance learning, we would have the time needed to try to accomodate school-based staff members who wish to have their children attend school 4 times per week
- A staged implementation of the hybrid model provides the opportunity to **build employee confidence** regarding the consistency of public health precautions, hopefully **reducing the number of resignations or leave requests**



# Examples of Questions to Answer

- **How many students** in first stage with in-person learning?
- **Which students?** Based on grade, school, special population, program, and/or some other means?
- Would **student/teacher schedules** for 100% distance learning take into account choices/preferences relating to hybrid model?
- Would we **survey parents** and seek staff preferences again?
- Would we determine which students participate in each stage in a way that does not require **new bus routes**? Alternatively, would we operate routes in early stages with very low student occupancy?
- **How long** should distance learning be provided to most students?
- Would the School Board support **income continuation** for employees?



# Planning for the 2020–2021 School Year

July 21, 2020

