



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of the Superintendent

September 26, 2020

On Friday, September 25th, 2020, we learned Virginia First Lady Pamela Northam tested positive for COVID-19. The First Lady made a visit to Rising Star Early Childhood Center on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 to tour the school and visit classrooms. During her visit, all health mitigation strategies were maintained. Students, faculty, and staff, including myself, maintained 6-foot social distancing as much as possible, wore their face coverings, and frequently washed their hands. After careful contact tracing, students and staff were not considered primary contacts to Virginia's First Lady and deemed not at risk to contract COVID-19 as a result of her visit.

This is an opportunity to remind our community of the health mitigation strategies SCPS has in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. Beginning in March, we collaborated with the Virginia Department of Health to review guidelines, using this information to develop important protocols for entering SCPS property. [I have communicated these protocols openly in my weekly letters, televised school board meetings, Town Hall meetings](#), and in our [Safety First: Return to School Video Series](#). Below is an outline of our personnel and building mitigation practices:

- Upon arrival at any SCPS facility, all visitors and staff must answer health screening questions and have a temperature check.
- While on site, individuals are to maintain six-foot distances whenever possible.
- [All personnel, students and visitors must wear a face covering per the SCPS School Board policy, even when maintaining physical distancing.](#)
- Individuals are to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.
- Students and staff who do not feel well are to remain home and contact their building administrator.
- Staff and students are to self-quarantine after exposure in accordance with the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Virginia Department of Health](#) guidelines. Self quarantine is required for individuals who were within 6 feet or less, for 15 continuous minutes or more, of the person who was confirmed as being COVID-19 positive.
- Conduct of regular disinfection and electrostatic cleanings.
- Contact tracing and notification procedures are in place and used when we are notified of any COVID-19 positive case.
- Distribution of the [Facilities Risk Mitigation procedures](#) document, which details our cleaning and disinfection procedures, air flow control and maintenance, and additional cleaning supplies purchased.
- Hand sanitizer stations, directional signage, and physical barriers are in place in all buildings.
- Additional air purifiers have been ordered for all school building clinics, isolation rooms, and front office spaces.

These are important practices that will help ensure the safety of all SCPS personnel, students and families. All of us at SCPS wish Virginia's Governor and First Lady a speedy recovery. We all have a responsibility in helping to reduce the COVID-19 virus spread in Stafford County. [Please visit our website to learn about the protocols and procedures in place at SCPS to address the COVID-19 virus.](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Kizner".

Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent