

Carroll County Public Schools in cooperation with the Carroll County Health Department is informing parents and guardians that a group of high school students who attended the Back to School Bash on Thursday, August 5, 2021 have been diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). These individuals did have direct exposure with the community in attendance at the event while infectious. Someone is contagious 48 hours before symptoms develop.

If you or your child attended the Back to School Bash on Thursday and participated in any of the events run by high school students, we recommend monitoring for symptoms, wearing a mask for 14 days in all public settings, staying home if you develop symptoms, and getting tested 5-7 days after the event or sooner if you develop symptoms. If you are fully vaccinated you should be tested 3-5 days after the exposure, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result. If you would like your child to be tested before starting school on Wednesday, August 11th please reach out to your child's school nurse and they can arrange testing.

Based upon guidance and recommendations from the Virginia Department of Health, the Mount Rogers Health District, Local Health District Officials, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control, Carroll County Public Schools will revise its previous masking strategies, beginning on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Upon discussion with our legal counsel and in accordance with the regulations set forth in Senate Bill 1303 reinforced by the Governor's statements on Thursday, August 5, 2021, this would include **universal indoor masking for all** faculty, staff, students, and visitors over the age of two as recommended by the Center for Disease Control due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, regardless of vaccination status.

Currently, Carroll County is in high transmission for the virus, as indicated by the local metrics on community transmission on the Virginia Department of Health website. We will continue to work with our local health district to monitor and evaluate our circumstances and hope to return to optional masking and less restrictive mitigations as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. Changes to our School Health, Safety, and Masking Procedures for 2021-2022 are for the safety of all of our students and staff in Carroll County Public Schools. We are requiring the mask mandate to **keep our schools open for in-person learning** during this recent spike of the Delta variant of the COVID 19 virus. We appreciate your cooperation during these unprecedented times.