



Arlington Public Schools

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*Michael Mason, Jr.
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To: Facilities Subcommittee
From: Michael Mason, CFO and Jim Feeney, Director of Facilities
Re: COVID-19 Facilities Update
Date: July 15, 2020

Indoor Air Quality

In order to suppress the spread of COVID-19 in our school buildings, the district intends to use system engineering controls such as increased fresh-air ventilation in conjunction with improved air filtration (upgrade to MERV-13) where possible. The Facilities Department has conducted various equipment inspections and performed maintenance and repair activities, and also intends to outsource the recommissioning of HVAC equipment and reprogramming of building automation systems as necessary to align with emerging ASHRAE guidance prepared for K-12 Schools.

Sanitization of Buildings

In order to suppress the spread of COVID-19 the district will have to take additional measures related to custodial care. In addition to general cleanliness, sanitization is now of paramount importance. Based on experience in March of this year, and in anticipation of increased demand come re-opening, the Facilities Department has been working hard to increase its fleet of electrostatic sprayers in order to increase sanitization efficiency and efficacy and increase capacity to respond to building occupant's concerns.

The increased sanitization frequency of high-touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, railings, faucets, flushometers, elevator buttons, and regular sanitization of hard surfaces such as desks, tables and countertops will require an increased level of effort from the Facilities Department. Historically, these activities were not necessarily covered in the daily workload. As such, additional custodial resources will be required to meet the increased workload. Depending on the location and level of activity, this increased need may best be met with additional FTE staff members, increased overtime via existing staff, contracted 3rd party services, or through some combination of the abovementioned avenues.

Further, the value of additional FTE staffing would help address staffing shortages due to vacancies and absences. Customarily, in the event of a sick call, personal day, or vacation leave, or some other accrued/paid time off, a custodian is shifted from another building, often only to perform core functions such as emptying trash and servicing bathrooms. Under normal circumstances, the short-term provision of minimal services is suitable as other activities, such as dry mopping or vacuuming, can be temporarily halted without adverse impact. Under the

'new normal' conditions, we are not afforded the luxury of delaying sanitization; it must occur daily.

Building Decals

The Facilities Department is in the process of ordering decals to be displayed on doors, walls and floors in each building to help communicate COVID-19 related expectations.

At entrance doors and in main lobbies, we will have decals indicating face coverings are required, and to practice social distancing. There will be decals near hand sanitizer dispensers directing students, staff and visitors to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building, and other areas where provided, such as cafeterias. There will also be floor decals indicating where to stand at locations where a line may form, and social distancing measures need to be upheld. Further, there will be floor decals guiding the flow of traffic in common hallways where necessary.

Plexiglass Barriers

The Facilities Department is in the process of procuring and installing freestanding acrylic barriers with pass-through openings to protect interactions between visitors and public-facing staff in locations such as the main office.

Isolation Rooms in Nursing Suites

The Facilities Department is in the process of working with the Nursing team to identify rooms within Nursing suites to be used as isolation rooms for suspected COVID patients. This will include installing tempered glass observation windows in doors to allow for proper patient monitoring.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

The Facilities Department is in the process of procuring free-standing hands-free stanchion mount hand sanitizer dispensers to be placed at the main entrance of every school building. Alternate entrances and cafeterias are also being considered for dispenser placement.