



Arlington Public Schools

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*Michael Mason, Jr.
Chief Financial Officer*

To: School Committee
From: Michael Mason, Jr., CFO and Jim Feeney, Director of Facilities
Re: COVID-19 Facilities Update
Date: July 30, 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. Facilities intends to operate fresh air and exhaust systems for longer run periods to maximize opportunity for filtration and achieve as many air changes as possible. Interior spaces without windows and sufficient mechanical ventilation will not be recommended for student activities.

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 door knobs, railings, faucets, flushometers, elevator buttons will require an increased level of effort from the Facilities Department. These surfaces should be addressed 3-4 times daily. Regular sanitization of hard surfaces such as desks, tables and countertops will also need to occur daily. It is recommended Facilities personnel be responsible for disinfection of desks between different cohorts of students in spaces of the buildings.

Historically, these activities were not necessarily covered in the daily work load. As such, additional custodial resources will be required to meet the increased workload. Depending on the location and level of activity, this increased need will be met through a combination of additional FTE staff via contracted 3rd party services and increased overtime for existing staff. It is expected that a minimum of **2 FTE** additional will be required.

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, or as selected schedule requires.

Exit and Entry Access points

The Facilities department ordered decals to be displayed on doors, walls and floors in each building to help communicate COVID-19 related expectations. The Facilities department is investigating exterior decals to indicate social distancing measures that will be required at arrival/drop off and dismissal/pickup times.

The Facilities Department has also procured free-standing hands-free stanchion mount hand sanitizer dispensers to be placed at the main entrances of every school building as well as cafeterias.

At entrance doors and in main lobbies, we will have decals indicating face coverings are required, and to practice social distancing. There will be signs 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.

Interior Building Decals

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.

Student Learning Spaces

Principals have generated a list of classroom spaces and measured dimensions of classrooms to determine classroom capacity. Principals have inventoried these learning spaces with reconfiguration in consideration to maximize the amount of students that can fit in the classroom at the 3 foot minimum physical distancing requirement (DESE initial guidance) and in some cases considering 6 feet as an alternative for additional safety measures. This capacity study includes large spaces such as cafeterias, gymnasiums and libraries throughout the district.

Principals and members of the Facilities Department have gone around to various classrooms and other spaces in their respective buildings to identify any non-essential items or furniture in spaces for removal or disposal in order to maximize space. Items that will be removed include soft and cloth-based materials, such as rugs, pillows, and bean bags that have been used in elementary and early childhood classrooms in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Additional storage needs are still being evaluated.

Plexiglass barriers are being looked at for certain learning spaces. One example of the learning space that we are considering plexiglass barriers are for the preschool. The preschool is considering this set up because unlike other classrooms where students can sit at individual desks facing one direction, students sit at tables, many times facing each other. The plexiglass barriers would add an additional level of protection to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Outdoor Spaces have also been considered. There has been interest in the procurement of tent purchase/rental for spaces for outdoor learning or an alternative space for mask breaks. Semi-permanent tents require building permits and detailed planning.

Office Spaces and Plexiglass Barriers

The District has been evaluating staffing spaces to ensure that staff is properly distanced from each other. In cases where it is not possible to meet requirements, the District has been working to establish alternative working spaces, if possible. In addition, 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. Facilities will also place portable powered air purifiers in nursing suites.

When school is back in session our nursing suites will always be staffed by the school nurse at all times while school is in operation. Masks will be required to be worn at all times in these spaces by staff and by students. Nursing staff will also have additional personal protective equipment such as face shields, goggles, gloves and gowns/protective smocks, if necessary.

Air Purification

The Facilities Department is researching the use of bi-polar ionization or UVC air treatment devices. Based on discussions with consulting mechanical engineers and HVAC product distributors, bi-polar ionization would be the recommended application, with product types

varying by equipment type. If possible, the Facilities Department would attempt to deploy these devices in special-use cases or in response to building or classroom specific concerns.

Water Fountains

The Facilities Department is installing additional touch-free bottle-filling stations in common areas in the district. Existing units that provide for both manual use and bottle filling will be retrofit with a separate valve to preclude manual use for direct consumption. Common area fountains that provide only manual direct consumption will be turned off.

Hand Dryers

The Facilities Department will be powering down hand dryers in bathrooms to reduce the chance at distributing aerosolized particles. Paper towel dispensers will be added.

PPE Inventory

Below is a chart of the PPE supplies that have been ordered as of July 30, 2020 and the amount of PPE that the district has received.

Item Description	QTY Ordered	QTY Received	QTY Pending Vendor
Pediatric Face Mask	8,000	8,000	0
Adult Face Masks	37,000	2,000	35,000
Face Shields	1,000	1,000	0
Gloves	79,900	20,200	59,700
Gowns	1,500	500	1,000
Lab coats	50	50	0
Thermometers	60	50	10
Desk Shields	50	0	50
N95 or K95 Respirator	1,650	650	1,000
Clear Face Masks	3,456	0	3,456