

# Portsmouth Public Schools Return to School Plans 2021-22

Presented By:

Sydney Harper, *School Epidemiologist, Portsmouth Health Department*

Dr. Anita Wynn, *Chief Academic Officer*

Dr. Jerry L. Simmons, *Director of Auxiliary Services*



# COVID-19 Updates



# Portsmouth Health Department COVID-19 Indicators for August 31, 2021

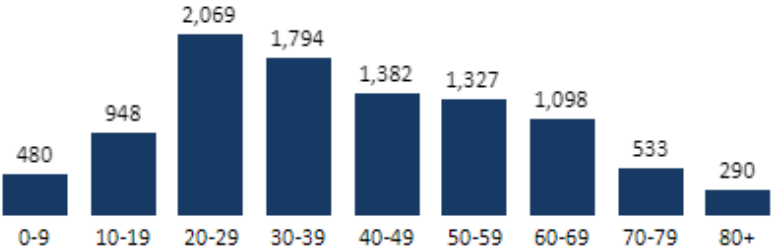
**Percent Positivity**  
(Current 7-Day Positivity Rate PCR only)  
**16.4%**  
Virginia: 9.6%

**New Cases**  
(7 day avg of daily new cases reported)  
**48**  
Total Cases: 10,503

**New Hospitalizations**  
(7 day avg of daily new hospitalizations reported)  
**2**  
Total Hospitalizations: 759

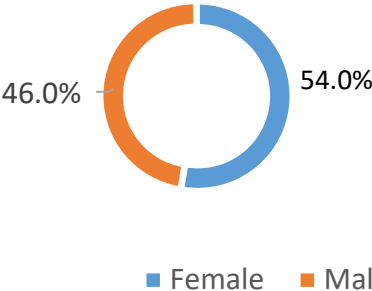
**Deaths**  
(7 day avg of daily new deaths reported)  
**0**  
Total Deaths: 210

## Cases by Age Group in Portsmouth



Not Reported: 582

## Cases by Sex



## ED Visits for COVID-like illness

Weekly CLI Visits (Percentages) - Portsmouth



Select Counts or Percentages

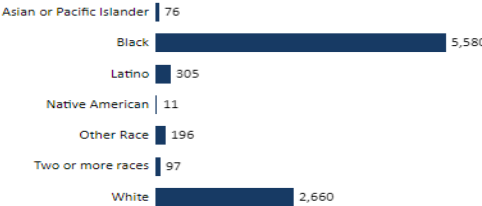
- ☐ Counts
- ☒ Percentages

Health District

Portsmouth

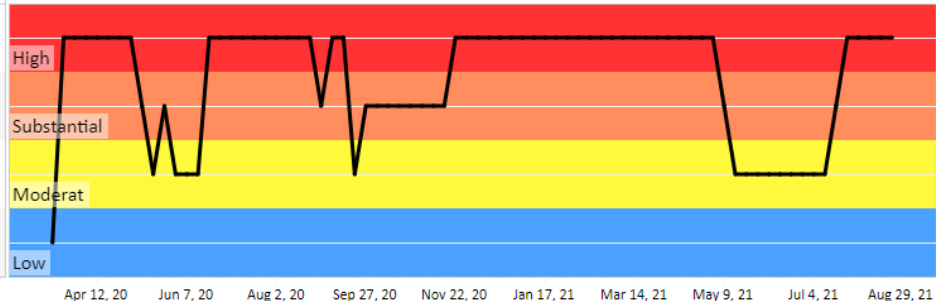
- CLI % - Virginia State
- CLI %

## Cases by Race and Ethnicity



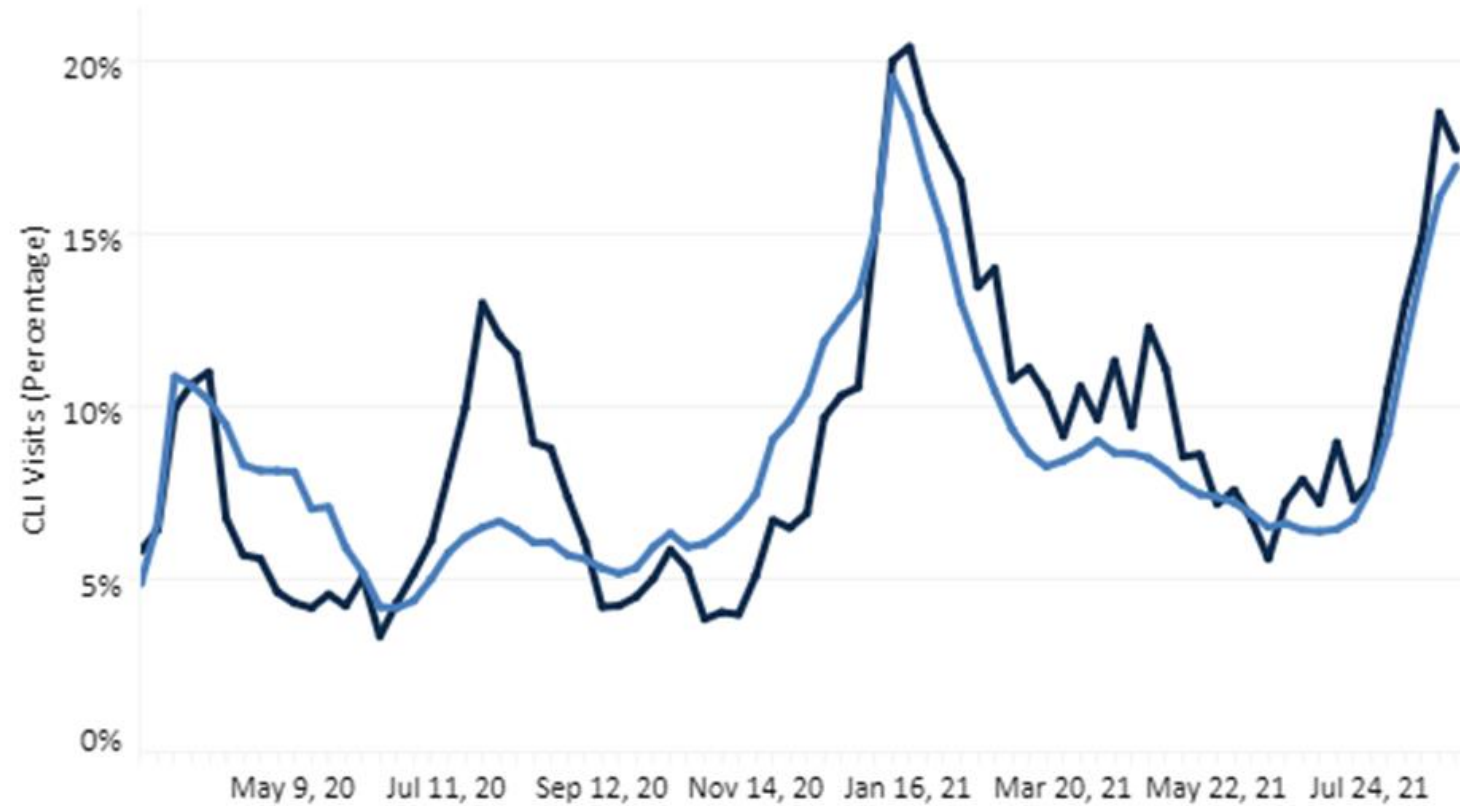
Not Reported: 1,578

## Transmission Level



## ED Visits for COVID-like illness

Weekly CLI Visits (Percentages) - Portsmouth



CLI visits include visits with symptoms of fever/viral infection with a respiratory complaint (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing) or mention COVID as reason

COVID-19  
in Portsmouth  
March 2020 – September 1, 2021

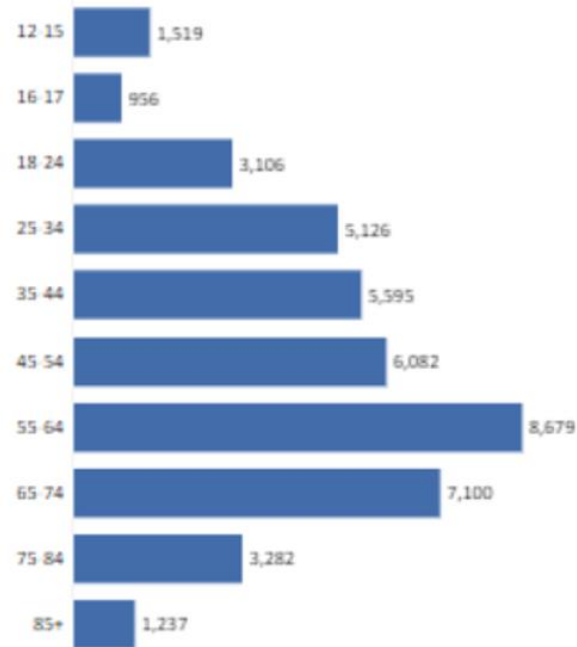
10,553  
COVID cases

759  
Hospitalizations

210  
Deaths

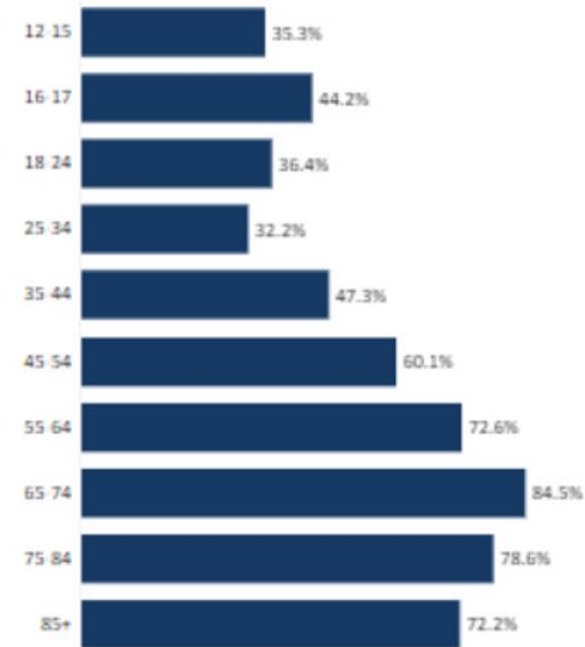
# COVID-19 Vaccine Received- School Aged Children

Vaccination Count  
By Age Group



Not Reported: 0

Percent of the Population Vaccinated with At  
Least One Dose - By Age Group



**Ages : 12-17**  
**People Vaccinated:**  
**2,475**  
**% Vaccinated: 38.3%**

**Ages : 12+**  
**People Vaccinated:**  
**42,682**  
**% Vaccinated: 54.0%**

**Ages : 18+**  
**People Vaccinated:**  
**40,207**  
**% Vaccinated: 55.4%**

**Ages : 65+**  
**People Vaccinated:**  
**11,619**  
**% Vaccinated: 81.3%**

# Layered Prevention Practices

- CDC's Guidance emphasizes 9 key prevention strategies:

1. Promoting vaccination

2. Consistent and correct use of masks

3. Physical distancing

4. Screening testing

5. Ventilation

6. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

7. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

8. Staying home when sick and getting tested

9. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

- Prevention is an important tool to support in-person education
- Most effective when practices are layered together
  - ☐ Reduces the transmission of COVID-19 within the K-12 schools
  - ☐ Protects students who are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.
    - ☐ Children under 12 years of age

# Updates: Consistent and Correct Use of Mask in a K-12 School Setting

- July 27, 2021- CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students (age two years and older), teachers, staff, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.
- August 12, 2021- State Health Commissioner, Dr. M. Norman Oliver, issued a Public Health Order requiring all students, teachers, staff, and visitors in K-12 schools aged two years and older to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- **New exception to close contact in K-12 setting:** a student who was within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
  - Does not apply to teachers, staff, or any adults in the classroom setting.



# Local Resources: Portsmouth Health Department

## PHD Resources

- COVID-19 Containment 2.0 Support Team (School Epidemiologist, Contact tracers, Case Investigators, Care Coordinator)
- Liaison to assist PPS staff and students with COVID-19 testing.
- Starting September 14, 2021- The Portsmouth Health Department will offer COVID-19 testing and vaccinations by appointment only.



## Support to Portsmouth Public Schools

- Quickly identify and isolate cases
- Quarantine those potentially exposed to COVID-19
- Identify clusters among PPS students and staff
- Track and control outbreaks within PPS facilities
- Connect people with community resources they may need
- Assist in minimizing disruptions to in-person education

# Local Resources: COVID-19 Testing Sites

## Walgreen's Pharmacy: 1800 Frederick Blvd

- 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM
- By appointment only (online)
- Pharmacy Drive-Thru
- Rapid Testing Available

## CVS Pharmacy

- Available at all three locations
- Rapid Testing available only at High Street location

## Hampton Roads Community Health Center

- Wednesdays 8:00 am – 10:00 am

## Rite Aid Pharmacy

- Drive-thru testing at 5914 High St W
- 975 Hodges Ferry Rd offers testing until 8:00 pm.

## Jencare Senior Medical Center

- Accepts walk-ins everyday until 5:00pm

## Maryview Medical Center

- Testing is only available to symptomatic visitors

## Portsmouth Sheriff Department

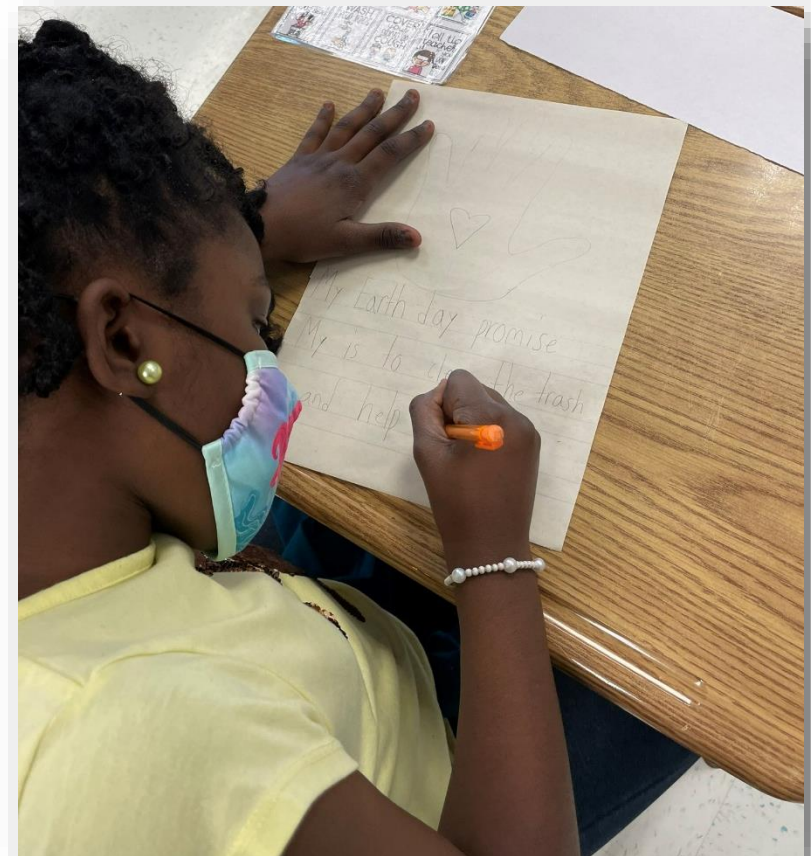
- Only available to staff and their families

# Curriculum and Instruction Updates



# In-Person Learning

- In-Person Learning is the main instructional delivery model for the division
- Full Day Bell Schedules
- No restrictions on in-person activities for classroom, except limit student movement in Encore for elementary
- Social distancing and masks are required for all staff and students
- Elementary STARBASE will be virtual for the first quarter
- Field trips will be limited



*Photo courtesy of Victory Elementary*

# Virtual Learning: Virtual Virginia (VVA)

- Offered by Virginia Department of Education
- Registration window closed July 15 - any requests after that date were put on a waiting list
- Approximate 350-400 students are enrolled in VVA
- Teachers are provided by VVA
- VVA offers live instruction combined with asynchronous work
- Students are still connected with PPS
- Special Education and English Language services are managed by PPS



# Virtual Learning: Edgenuity

- A second virtual option for those families wishing to remain 100% virtual and did not register for/get into VVA
- Approximately 815 students registered for Edgenuity (roughly 415 students grades 6th-12th and 400 students K-5)
- Edgenuity is a VDOE-approved Multi-Division Online Provider (MOP) that provides students with asynchronous learning
- **No live instruction**
- Students are supported by an Edgenuity teacher that manages and communicates with the class
- Edgenuity also provides Live Chat for help from 7am-10pm everyday and a Success Coach
- Grades 6-12 primarily have recorded video instruction with interactive modules
- Grades K-5 provide primarily text-based modules with a workbook, and will require parental/guardian support for daily instruction
- Edgenuity will begin one week later than the opening of school
- Special Education and EL services managed by PPS



# Auxiliary Services Updates



# Departmental Updates

All auxiliary services personnel follow CDC and local health department guidelines related to COVID-19 and respond accordingly to target isolated COVID-19 cases in the division.

The PPS Pandemic Committee meets monthly and works closely with Dr. Bracy and the School Reopening Committee.

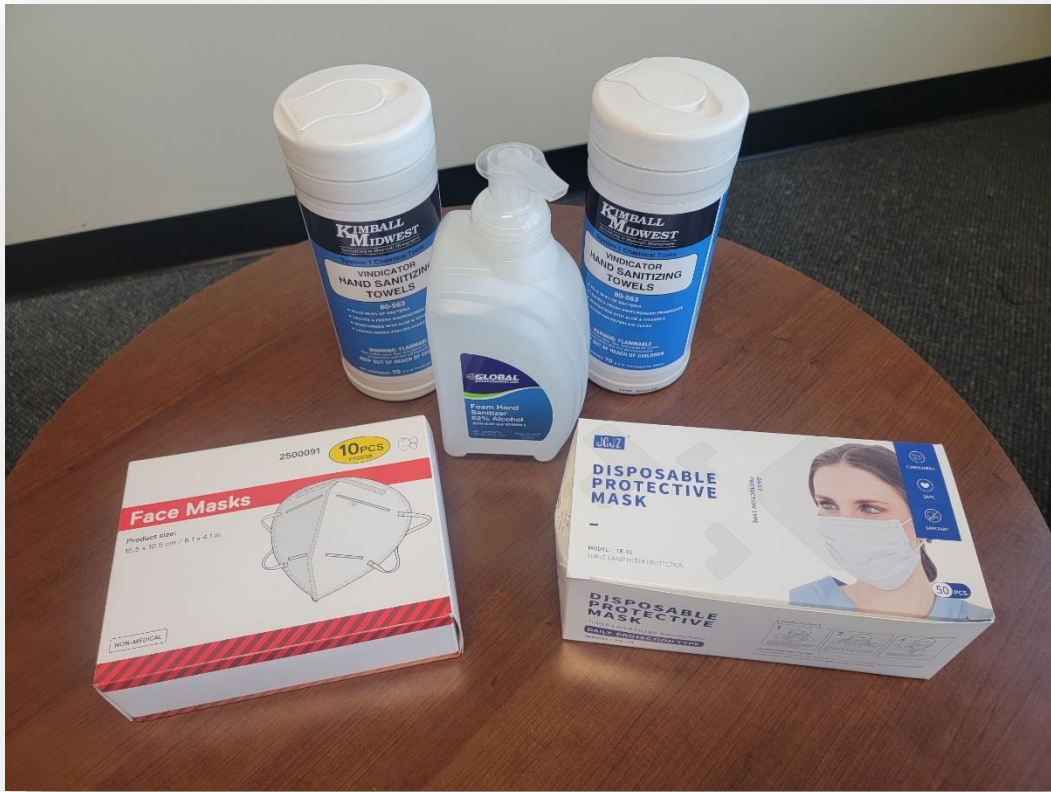


# Building Services



- Plexiglass sections have all been installed in all district schools (in front offices/security stations)
- Touchless freestanding sanitation and water stations have been placed in schools and facilities throughout the district
- Safety signage displayed throughout each school
- PPS will continue to sanitize each building and all buses daily, and custodial schedules have been adjusted as necessary

# Building Services



- General cleaning and sanitizing occurs daily (disinfecting, misting, spraying has been implemented as part of the **daily** cleaning routines)
- The division is well stocked with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and all COVID-related material and supplies, and PPE has been delivered to schools (additional PPE has also been ordered to ensure a full supply at all times)

# Building Services

- Custodians will maintain cleanliness of cafeterias during lunch while cafeteria staff will sanitizes seats and tables
- All filters have been upgraded to MERV-13 from MERV-10
- Sports complexes will be sanitized after each event
- Urinals will be spaced and covered to maintain proper social distancing



# Food Services



- Food Service will operate under the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for the entire school year
- All students that reside in Portsmouth are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch
- Kiosks have been ordered for all schools
- Breakfast will be eaten in the classrooms
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria
- Students will sit in zones in the cafeteria
- Parents may pick up meals for students who have elected the virtual option from any PPS school.
- Cafeteria Staff will follow all CDC guidelines related to wearing masks and social distancing while working in the cafeteria



# Transportation Services

- All bus drivers, monitors and students will be required to wear masks while on the school bus
- Transportation has a adequate supply of masks for students who come to the bus stop without masks
- School Buses will still have to be sanitized between bus runs
- The DDT will sanitize buses at the end of the final run to ensure buses are prepared for the next morning.



# Questions?

