



**Memo from Health Officer Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D.
Collaboration with Nonpublic Schools
August 13, 2020**

Yesterday, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health sent a letter to nonpublic schools to proactively ensure that nonpublic schools have safety measures in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in their schools. There are two requirements for nonpublic schools:

- Submitting a safety plan for approval prior to reopening in-person.
- Contacting the Health Department if a student or staff member is positive.

We expect that every school that wants to open to in-person instruction already has or will have a written safety plan that outlines the changes in place to minimize transmission of COVID-19. The Health Department will review the plan within 2 business days and those that appropriately address all the elements of federal (CDC) and state (MSDE) guidance can reopen. For those with deficiencies in their plan, we will work with those schools to improve their plans so that they can safely reopen on time. For those that choose not to open to in-person instruction at this time, they can submit a plan now or at a later date at least 14 days prior to re-opening.

This approach gives schools the flexibility they need while ensuring that students and staff return to a school with the necessary safety precautions in place.

While we did state that we don't recommend opening at this time, it is up to each nonpublic school to make a decision based on the specifics of their community. Also, the COVID-19 situation in our county changes week to week and we will update our recommendations as needed.

We all want the same thing: to ensure that our children get the education they need while protecting their safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach allows us to collaborate before school starts so that we start the school year on the right foot.