Fact #1: Strict adherence to the “3 Ws” (wear mask, wash hands, wait 6 feet apart) will greatly mitigate secondary spread of the Coronavirus.

- Supporting statement: This has been shown in school districts educating hundreds of thousands of students throughout the state. This ‘safe-school’ experience has been shown in school districts that are small (<5,000 students e.g., Mt Airy), mid-sized (5,000-15,000 e.g., Yadkin), and large (>15,000 e.g., Iredell-Statesville and Gaston). In addition, this has been shown in schools educating millions of children worldwide including Australia, Asia, and Europe.

- Supporting statement: Failure to adhere to masking will lead to an unsafe work environment and is behavior that is both irresponsible and unacceptable outside of the adapted curriculum.

Fact #2: If cloth masks and surgical masks that fit over the nose/mouth/chin are used, then distant transmission will be entirely avoided or a rare event.

- Supporting statement: Based on the data from hundreds of hospital systems across hundreds of thousands of patients and other school districts within North Carolina and the country as well as around the globe. To date, in the public-school setting, early data strongly supports that transmission will be avoided provided that masking is enforced as evidenced in schools with at least 99% mask enforcement.

Fact #3: Per the CDC, transmission beyond 6’ is possible—likely scenarios where this might occur include singing, aerosolizing medical procedures, and high intensity exercise without a mask.

- Supporting statement: If masking (cloth masks and surgical masks that fit over the nose/mouth/chin) is strictly enforced and high-risk activities are avoided airborne transmission can be interrupted as evidenced by the data from hundreds of hospital systems across hundreds of thousands of patients and other school districts. Early data strongly supports that transmission will be avoided provided that masking is enforced in the public-school setting.

Fact #4: N95 Masks are not necessary in the typical public school and district worksite settings.

- Supporting statement: Successful school districts are not using N95 masks. In addition, hospitals and clinics provide strong supporting evidence to support this statement. The following circumstances are similar between private clinics, free clinics, health department clinics, and schools:
  1. Employees and children are asymptomatic (this will be provided by attestation in schools and local clinics require the same attestations) and provide routine medical care to patients
  2. Children wear a cloth mask
  3. Employees wear a medical or cloth mask

Then transmission has been limited primarily to breaks in mask protocol
Fact #5: Whether the percent of positive cases (one of the 4 metrics the district is monitoring) is above or below 5%, assume that there will always be infected people in every school and work site every day.

- Supporting statement: Regardless of the amount of the number of people infected per day in the county, school policies should assume that there will always be infected people in every building throughout the 2020-2021 school year. This is a hallmark of infection control.

Fact #6: HEPA filters and ventilation have not been shown to reduce or eliminate transmission of the Coronavirus. Even in the setting of poor ventilation, masking is demonstrated to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Supporting statement: There are no scientific data to support that the use of HEPA filters and ventilation work to prevent spread of COVID-19. To date, interventions around indoor ventilation (i.e. opening windows) have not been shown to be helpful to prevent the transmission of the Coronavirus if people are masking. A cloth or surgical mask is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of the virus.

Fact #7: Time spent in large or small groups in enclosed spaces should be minimized without masks or when compliance to mask wearing is less than 100% or cannot be ensured.

- Supporting statement: There is a higher risk of transmission when people are unmasked.

Fact #8: A viable vaccine is not projected to be available for widespread use in children until 2022-2023.

- Supporting statement: As of the end of calendar year 2020, no child younger than 16 has been enrolled in a vaccine trial. This testing will need to occur to show that the vaccine is safe in younger children prior to widespread uptake of a vaccine in school-aged children.

(Continued on page 3)
Fact #9: Success is possible!

- Supporting statement: In districts that adhere to masking, clusters (5 or more cases at a school) are infrequent (see chart below).

### Clusters in North Carolina Traditional Public Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Clusters</th>
<th>Collaborative Status</th>
<th>Num Clusters</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Population (thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buncombe</td>
<td>Elementary No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craven</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Craven</td>
<td>High School No</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>High School No</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onslow</td>
<td>High School No</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robeson</td>
<td>Elementary No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes</td>
<td>High School No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Davidson  | High School Yes | 1 | 2 | 4 | 19 |
| Gaston    | Elementary Yes | 1 | 5 | 0 | 31 |
| Gaston    | Elementary Yes | 1 | 4 | 1 | 31 |
| Moore     | Elementary Yes | 1 | 1 | 5 | 13 |
| Sampson   | Elementary Yes | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| Total     |             | 13 | 39 | 47 |

Total source population: ~500k students over 9 weeks (Aug 10th-October 10th)
- <5,000 Craven
- 5,000-10,000 Sampson, Wilkes
- >10,000 Buncombe, Gaston, Onslow, Robeson
Fact # 10: Secondary transmission is limited in districts that mask. ● Supporting statement: See chart below.

Example School district
Successful quarter
Many schools 0 infection
Most schools 0 secondary transmission
2 Clusters
15 schools—0 cases
20 schools—1 case
7 schools—2 cases
4 schools—3 cases
1 school—4 cases
3 schools—5 cases
2 schools—6 cases
2 schools—7 cases
1 school—8 cases
1 school—9 cases (*1 case/1,000/week)