

## CCPS: Parents asked to complete survey

FROM PAGE ONE

schools must follow CDC Guidance for Schools, including social and physical distancing, enhanced health and hygiene procedures, cleaning and disinfecting measures and other mitigation strategies. These precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Daily health screenings of students

and staff.

- Providing remote learning exceptions and teleworking for students and staff who are at a higher risk of severe illness.

- The use of cloth face coverings by staff when at least 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Encouraging the use of face coverings for students, as developmentally appropriate, in

settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

“Social distancing restrictions for school buses and classrooms will be very challenging for CCPS,” Mason said. “Surveys are being mailed home to parents today regarding their plans for sending their students back to school in person in the fall. It is critical that parents return these surveys

ASAP so that we can get accurate data for in-person student instruction numbers.”

Mason said this data would allow CCPS to determine which schedules work best for students and exactly what school will look like in the fall.

“I realize that parents want specific information about school reopening plans in the fall, but this process

will take a few weeks,” Mason said. “I ask everyone to please be patient so that we can develop the best plan possible for our students and families.”

Gov. Northam closed Virginia schools in March in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

“Our schools have risen to the occasion and found ways to provide remote learning opportunities, keep students engaged, continue serving meals

for children who otherwise would have gone hungry and support students and families through an immensely challenging time,” Northam said. “Resuming in-person instruction is a high priority, but we must do so in a safe, responsible and equitable manner that minimizes the risk of exposure to the virus and meets the needs of the Virginia students who have been disproportionately impacted by lost classroom time.”

## TOWER: Citizen concerned about potential hazards

FROM PAGE ONE

we did our due diligence, knowing Kyanite Mining, or Blue Rock LLC owned the land behind our property and contacted a representative from said company to find out if the land was slated for use. We were assured that it wasn't. After being notified of this proposed cell tower via mail, only eight days before this council was set to hold a public hearing during the COVID-19 outbreak, where people are not allowed to gather publicly in groups of more than 10 people.”

Cox said they contacted U.S. Cellular to get some information on a more precise outline of the location of their proposed tower and were told this was proprietary information that could

not be released to the public.”

During her address to the BOS, Cox spoke of other states and countries not allowing 5G technology until a further study on the potentially harmful side effects it could cause is performed. She mentioned concerns about cancer.

“Hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific studies from around the world have linked non-ionizing forms of electromagnetic radiation to health risks such as cancer, DNA damage (especially in infants and fetuses), and infertility,” Cox said. “The U.S. Brain Tumor Association says the higher the frequency the more dangerous the radiation. Three and 4G technologies operate within the spectrum of 1 to 6 GHz frequencies.

Five- or 5G-compatible cell towers emit frequencies as high as 300 GHz.”

Emilee Lauer, with Old Dominion Professional Services Site Acquisition, made the following statement to the BOS.

“Currently there are no associated health side effects due to the construction of wireless facilities. U.S. Cellular is provided very heavy guidelines from the government and environmental agencies to ensure there are no hazards to surrounding humans, animals or land. It has been determined that the most severe radiation directly to humans comes from microwaves used in kitchens and other small electronic devices. If someone were to climb a cell tower and stand directly in front of an on-

air antenna without an RF device, then yes, that could be hazardous to your health.”

After hearing concerns, Wylliesburg/Red Oak Supervisor Kay Pierantoni said she was concerned that a homeowner had only eight days to respond and was even more concerned that Cox had called in

and that neither the BOS nor planning commission heard her comments during the public hearing.

“I don't think eight days is a short amount of time. If I am concerned about something, I'll contact you the next day,” Vice Chairman Gary Walker said.

The planning commission will now review Cox's concerns before

the BOS makes a final vote on the CUP for U.S. Cellular.

U.S. Cellular applied for the CUP in January, and a public hearing was originally set for April but was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic and office closures.

According to the CUP application, if approved, the tower is to be fully operational within two years of approval.

## FUNDS: Towns will get a portion

FROM PAGE ONE

The money is designed to provide ready funding to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Witt said \$29,000 of the funds has already been spent on personal protective equipment for the sheriff's office, rescue squad, fire department and governmental offices, and on purchasing plexiglass for barriers at the commissioner's office, the school's ad-

ministration office and several school offices.

A portion of the CARES Act funds may also be distributed to towns within the county, but according to Witt, no towns have requested funds.

“The board's intentions are to give the towns their allotted distribution, which is based on population,” Witt said. “I'm working on an agreement that each town will be required to sign since the county is responsible for any funds spent by the towns

and deemed not related to the coronavirus. In that case, the agreement would require the town to pay the county back or provide a means for the county to collect the money.”



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