

# McCreary County Schools

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

### 2021-2022 School Year

(Approved at the July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting of the McCreary County Board of Education)

#### Introduction

The McCreary County School District has crafted this plan taking into consideration current guidelines set forth by Kentucky Public Health and the Kentucky Department of Education, including the document published by Kentucky Public Health "[Guidance for K-12 School Operations for In-Person Learning, July 14, 2021.](#)"

The McCreary County Board of Education and district leadership are dedicated to the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families. We also want our students to be successful and will work to provide them the very best possible educational experiences.

Our goal is to return to the least restrictive learning environment possible while keeping our students, staff and community safe. Understanding that it is possible that conditions and circumstances may change during the school year, we acknowledge that this plan may have to change.

#### Masks

- In schools, masks are not required for students and staff. However, they may wear masks if they choose to do so. It is recommended that unvaccinated persons wear masks indoors.
- On school buses, masks are required per guidance from KDE, Kentucky Public Health and the CDC.
- Medical exemptions will be considered when supported by a doctor's note. In those cases, an alternative form of PPE will be considered. Also, a student's IEP will also be followed in relation to this.
- There could be adjustments to masking expectations if levels of COVID-19 transmission change in the community and/or schools.

#### Physical Distancing and Contact Tracing

- Classroom seating will be organized to have students three feet apart when possible. If this is not possible, seating will be organized to maximize space between students.
- Cafeteria seating will be organized to maximize distance between students.
- To the greatest extent practicable, students will face in the same direction. This could be a challenge in a cafeteria setting.
- Seating charts for classrooms, cafeteria and buses will be developed, followed and checked.
- If it is possible and practical, students will remain in assigned groups/pods.
- Buses will be loaded back to front and unloaded front to back.

- Signage will be utilized to remind staff and students to stay at least 3-6 feet apart.
- Visitors to schools will be screened and limited.
- McCreary County Schools will work with our local health department facilitate case investigation and contact tracing.
- There could be adjustments to physical distancing expectations if levels of COVID-19 transmission change in the community and/or schools.

### **Screening and Isolation**

- Students and staff should stay home if they are having fever (100.4 degrees F or higher) and/or have COVID-19 symptoms including
  - Fever or feeling feverish (e.g. chills, sweating)
  - New cough
  - Difficulty Breathing
  - Sore throat
  - Muscle aches or body aches
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - New loss of taste or smell
- We encourage parents to screen their children for fever and symptoms. Staff members are asked to self-screen.
- Students who exhibit one or more symptoms at school will be quarantined in an isolation room until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Unvaccinated staff members who exhibit one or more symptoms will be sent home immediately.
- Sick persons are encouraged to go to a health care provider to be tested for COVID-19. They may return to school with a negative test result or when their symptoms resolve. Sick students and staff who are not tested for COVID-19 may return to school when their symptoms resolve.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should follow guidance from the local health department as to when it is safe for them to be around others.

### **Other Preventative Measures**

- Hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) will be available in classrooms, buses, cafeteria, and other places throughout the building.
- Signage will be posted that encourages proper hand and respiratory hygiene (hand washing frequency and technique, covering coughs and sneezes).
- Cleaning protocols have been established and checklists have been developed.
- In the cafeteria, there will be no “self-service,” if deemed necessary.
- Facility ventilation will be geared to increase outdoor air circulation and increase delivery of clean air.
- Explore COVID-19 Testing Programs

## **Instruction**

- Students will attend in-person classes five days per week (Monday – Friday). This is the strong preference and our hope is to continue the entire school year under this format. There is not a virtual option for students.
- However, we understand that circumstances beyond our control could impact our ability to remain in this format. As occurred last year, there could be mandates from the state to cease in-person learning. Also, community/school transmission rates could reach concerning levels. In these cases, it could be necessary to transition to a format that includes part-time/full-time virtual instruction. While we hope that this doesn't happen, we understand that it is a possibility.
- To ensure continuity of services, each student will be issued a Chromebook. So, in the event that we have to transition to virtual learning, students will have the tools necessary to participate fully and be successful.

## **Athletics**

Expectations for athletics will be consistent with guidance from public health officials, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

## **Reporting**

Consistent with Governor Beshear's Executive Order (902 KAR 2:220E), McCreary County Schools will participate in the self-reporting program or work with public health department to report as necessary. Parents are required to inform the school within 24 hours if their child is diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or has been directed to quarantine by a medical professional and/or the local health department.