

McCreary County Schools
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
COVID-19 School Operations Plan
2021-2022 School Year
Reviewed for the 2022-2023 School Year

**(Presented at the January 24, 2022 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: Layered Prevention Strategies, January 10, 2022.”

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 provide 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

- Decisions on whether universal masking will be required will be made for the following week based on McCreary County 7-Day Incidence Rate data provided by the Lake Cumberland District Health Department. If the rate is 50.0 or higher, universal masking will be required indoors when students are present. If the rate is below 50.0, indoor masking will be optional. Specifically, the rate reported on the Thursday of each week will be used. The decision will be announced each Friday. The number of cases occurring at USP McCreary will be subtracted from the total cases and the incidence rate will be adjusted accordingly.
- On school buses, masks are required for all persons. For the 2022-2023 school year, this mandate has been lifted.
- There could be adjustments made to masking expectations based on changing COVID-19 incidence rates, updated guidance from health or education officials, or other unforeseen factors.
- Medical exemptions will be considered when supported by documentation from a medical provider on the form provided by the school district. In those cases, an alternative form of PPE will be considered. Also, a student’s IEP will also be followed in relation to this.

Test to Stay

The District has partnered with Ethos Laboratories to offer a voluntary “Test to Stay” program beginning Monday, October 25, 2021. This will be administered in a manner consistent with state and local guidance. In addition to the guidance, we will use “Test to Stay” for student-athletes as well.

Physical Distancing and Contact Tracing

- Classroom seating will be organized to have students at least 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.
- When possible and practical students will face in the same direction. This could be a challenge in some settings.
- 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.
- Staff members should remain physically distanced from one another whenever possible, at least six feet.
- 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 conduct contact tracing for staff and student exposures at school unless universal masking is in place.
- There could be adjustments to physical distancing expectations if incidence levels of COVID-19 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 exhibiting symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse to determine if isolation and parent pick-up are necessary.
- 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.

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. A virtual option was offered to our students. There were a number of criteria in order to become and remain a virtual student. The Board of Education reserves the right to end virtual learning as an option at its discretion.
- Per Senate Bill 25, students may be temporarily assigned to remote learning by the superintendent.
- To ensure continuity of services, each student was 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

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. Proof of required quarantine must be provided (statement from medical provider, statement from health department, or signed affidavit by parent/guardian).