

The Kenton County School District (KCS D) is committed to in-person classes daily for the 2021-22 school year. As a result of this commitment, *we will not close in-person instruction unless required/mandated to do so by the Department of Public Health, the Local Health Department and/or the Governor.* This plan is developed to provide guidance for the safe return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you in advance for your continued support and dedication to our school district and our kids.

Guiding Principles

- Honor and safeguard the health and safety of students and staff
- Maintain fidelity of instruction ensuring standards are taught and mastered by all students
- Support the social-emotional learning and teaching needs of students and staff
- Recognize circumstances may arise that will need to be accommodated
- Communicating effectively with all stakeholders

Instructional Models

KCS D is committed to in-person classes during the 2021-2022 school year for all students. However, we understand that some of our families may consider a virtual option. As a result, parents/guardians can select the district virtual school program for their child. *It is important to note that this program is completely on line,* however, student progress will still be monitored and assistance will be provided by the local school. Families interested in the virtual program should visit the district website or contact your local school for more information. *Also, the district will provide synchronous learning for students who are required to isolate/quarantine during the school year by a medical professional or district staff.* Students engaged in internships, work based learning experiences, dual credit, etc. will be required to follow the safety expectations of those organizations.

Guidance and Safety Expectations for In-Person Learning

The safety and well-being of our students, staff and community is our number one priority. We strongly believe that all students having access to in-person learning daily is essential to the academic and social/emotional well-being of our kids. The following recommendations are made to ensure we can continue in-person learning with a sense of normalcy during the 2021-2022 school year:

- We recommend that all of TEAM KENTON and our extended family receive the COVID vaccination (we understand and respect that this is an individual/family choice but it is important to note that students/staff who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine unless they become symptomatic).
- We recommend all persons who are not vaccinated wear masks while indoors in any KCS D facility. (This is only a recommendation and is the choice of the individual and/or their parents/guardians and we also recommend that individuals consult their doctor for professional medical advice.)
- We recommend distancing of 3 feet for students and 6 feet for staff to students when possible *without changing the schedule or physical use of space in the school.* An example is to try to spread desks out as far as possible in each class. This recommendation should not prevent student group work, other instructional activities, having students at cap size in classes or eating and socialization during lunch. Student interaction is also essential to the well-being of our students.

Additionally, the following safety prevention strategies will be implemented:

- Frequent Handwashing
- Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities
- Isolation of students/staff at school who have a fever and/or symptoms of COVID 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
 - *Individuals with any of these symptoms should stay home and be tested for COVID*
 - *It is expected that all staff and students report a positive COVID case immediately to their administration.*
 - *It is expected that the school health professional and administration work collaboratively to consider other factors before sending a student or staff member home.*
- COVID Testing (Testing may be done internally or through a referral to a testing facility to assist with the student/staff member staying in school and/or returning to school as soon as possible if he/she has symptoms or is required to quarantine. All testing will be voluntary)
- Unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID are required to be quarantined (a close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes within a 24 hour period while the person was considered contagious)
 - Seating charts will be maintained for contact tracing
 - *Fully vaccinated individuals DO NOT need to quarantine unless they have symptoms*
 - *Staff who are isolated/sick or are quarantined due to exposure will need to utilize their existing sick or personal days.*

District Transportation

- Required by the Center for Disease Control Order, clarified by the Kentucky Department of Education on 7/19/21: All students must wear masks on school buses at all times.
- Distancing of 3 feet is recommended if possible without interfering with bus routing.
- A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.

COVID Data Tracking:

- The district will not track COVID data during the 2021-2022 school year. The district will utilize the community transmission data at the following link: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>
- The district will continue to monitor transmission data throughout the school year and will update this plan with additional layered prevention strategies if the transmission reaches the “high category” which is 100+ cases per 100,000

Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities: All guidance in this document is applicable to athletics/extra-curricular activities and athletics governed by KHSAA must follow their requirements.

It is important to note that we will continue to monitor this ongoing challenge and we will keep you updated should we have to make changes to our plan. Thank you to TEAM KENTON and all of our extended family for your continued unwavering support as we continue to navigate the COVID pandemic. We are ready for a world class 2021-2022 school year!