



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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*Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools*

September 3, 2020

For Immediate Release

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our everyday life worldwide, in our country, our state, our region, and our county. Educational institutions, which serve our most precious resource - our kids - and are the backbone of democracy and economic development, have been significantly impacted as we have not been to school in person since March 13, 2020. While everyone is to be commended for doing their very best during this unprecedented time, on-line learning is not a long term replacement for in-person learning. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) clearly state that students need to be in school. The instructional, social emotional and nutritional concerns are real and as educational professionals we concur with their positions. However, they both indicate that community spread is a concern that must be monitored.

As a result of this information to include our own understanding of the significant impact isolation has had on our kids, families, staff and community, as well as the development of the District In-Person Dashboard to ensure decisions about district/school closures are being made based on local COVID-19 data to mitigate risk for all stakeholders; Superintendent Dr. Henry Webb recommended that students who chose the in-person model return to in-person classes on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the recommendation included returning to in-person classes unless there is a mandate not to return by the Governor, Commissioner of Education or State/Local Public Health Professionals. The Kenton County Board of Education approved this recommendation at a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is important to note that the District In-Person Dashboard will be accessible on our district COVID-19 page for full transparency and has been reviewed for feedback with the Department of Public Health, Local Health Department and St. Elizabeth Healthcare staff. We will continue to make adjustments as needed to meet the needs of our community to ensure that we mitigate risks for all stakeholders.

The Kentucky Department of Education has changed its Healthy at School guidance to mitigate risks for COVID-19 to require students and staff to wear face coverings at all times. **Therefore, KCS D students in grades K-12 will be required to wear masks at all times unless eating or drinking.** It is important to note that the district has the expectation that every classroom schedule mask breaks frequently during the school day. If you want to switch your student to the synchronous model or the Virtual Learning Academy due to this change please contact your school. If your student chose the synchronous model or the Virtual Learning Academy they will remain in those options. Beginning on September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Kenton County School District will implement our hybrid model plan, where students who chose in-person instruction in grades K-3 attend school every day, while students in grades 4-12 use an A/B rotational model. Students on 'Team A' will attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternating Fridays, while students on 'Team B' will attend school Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternating Fridays. On days that students are not in school, they will learn synchronously at home. More information on the rotational model will be coming from your child's school. Also, our district will provide a synchronous learning center for up to 200 students for our families. More information regarding the center can be viewed on the district website.

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Our team has spent countless hours developing a guidance document to ensure we mitigate risk for our students, staff and families while in school and we expect that any student or staff with any symptoms, as outlined in our guidance document, to stay home. Additionally, we have been and will continue to be engaged with state/local health officials regularly to ensure we stay up to date on current guidance to ensure we mitigate all risk to the maximum extent possible.

It is imperative that our community at large continue to follow state public official guidance to ensure we not only return to in-person classes but we stay in in-person classes. As we approach Labor Day weekend, we encourage our families to follow the guidance of state and local health officials.

Lastly, this action by our Board of Education is responsible, thoughtful and measured based on all information we have to ensure that our district is doing everything possible to mitigate risk for all stakeholders. We cannot thank our TEAM KENTON family enough for your efforts to ensure we have the very best education possible during these difficult times. There will be more challenges and we thank you in advance for your continued support. Your efforts have been extraordinary and your patience and grace is deeply appreciated.

Remember, Team Kenton is strong and together we will work to do what is best for our kids.

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