



Tuesday | August 31, 2021

Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Report

Commissioner of Health Dr. Kraig Humbaugh shared the following information:

- The rolling seven-day average of new cases in Fayette County is 228.
- There were more new cases in August than in the previous five months combined.
- Children 18 years of age and younger account for 20% of the current cases.
- Less than 3% of hospitalizations are children 18 years of age and younger.

FCPS Report

Here are the case and quarantine totals for the past week (8/24/21 to 8/30/21) within the Fayette County Public Schools district, which has roughly 42,000 students and 8,000 employees:

- 326 new student cases
- 55 new staff cases
- 2,173 student quarantines
- 11 staff quarantines

As of August 31, 2021, 1,865 students and 4 employees are in quarantine.

Message from FCPS Superintendent Demetrus Liggins



I believe open and honest communication is the foundation of every healthy relationship. While you and I have not had the opportunity to work together very long, I want you to know that I am committed to establishing positive relationships based on trust and mutual respect with our students, employees, and families.

Doing so will require consistent and frequent communication, especially when it involves issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning this week and moving forward, I will be sharing weekly COVID-19 updates with you, including summaries of the agenda items discussed during the meetings of the FCPS COVID-19 Core Team.

Please know that we are listening and working diligently to address questions and concerns you may have. We will be adding more resources to our website, establishing a COVID-19 hotline, and providing additional ways for you to dialogue with district leaders.

I had the opportunity to speak with the Governor yesterday about the challenges the pandemic has created for schools, and I will continue to advocate for the flexibility we need to promote the health and well-being of students, employees, and families, while maximizing in-person learning opportunities.

Let me know what I can do for you, DL

FCPS Core COVID-19 Team Update

Here is a summary of items discussed during the August 31, 2021 meeting of the Fayette County Public Schools Core COVID-19 Team:

- **Whole Class Quarantines:** Once a school is made aware of a positive COVID-19 case, they begin the contact tracing process to determine if any students or staff had close contact with the individual during their contagious period. In the classroom setting, if assigned seats are maintained and student movement is highly regulated, quarantines may be limited to only

those students who sat closest to the person who tests positive. However, there will be times that it may be necessary to quarantine an entire class, especially for our early grades and younger students.

- **COVID-19 Cleaning Protocols:** Custodial staff in each school maintain a rigorous cleaning schedule, paying special attention to high-touch surfaces. Additional supplies will be provided by custodians to any employee wishing to do additional cleaning in their classroom or office area.
- **Cafeteria Protocols:** Given space and time constraints, social distancing is not feasible in most cafeteria settings. Seating charts, assigned seats, and grouping students in cohorts are implemented to limit exposures.
- **COVID-19 Testing:** Free COVID-19 testing is available for all interested FCPS students and employees on several of [our campuses, district facilities, and community locations](#). Individuals do not have to be showing symptoms in order to use these sites and can go to any of the locations, regardless of where they work or attend school. Students and staff who are experiencing symptoms can take advantage of rapid COVID-19 testing available at every school.
- **Testing to Shorten Quarantines:** Individuals who are placed on quarantine due to a possible exposure to COVID-19 may return to school or work on the eighth day after exposure if 1) they have no symptoms and 2) they are tested for COVID-19 on the fifth, sixth or seventh day after exposure and receive a negative result.
- **Hybrid Instruction:** A hybrid instructional model where students alternate between learning in-person and working independently at home was discussed and determined not to be a feasible option at this time.
- **Vaccination:** FCPS will continue to work with community partners to increase the availability of vaccines for students, employees, and families. Vaccines are available now at the [following locations](#) and will be offered at select schools on Saturday, September 11.

Fayette County Public Schools | [\[www.fcps.net\]](http://www.fcps.net)



Fayette County Public Schools | 450 Park Place, Lexington, KY 40511

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