



Weekly COVID-19 News & Updates



Wednesday | December 8, 2021

Please note: This week's COVID-19 update was delayed due to the Amazon network outage on Tuesday. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Report

Commissioner of Health Dr. Kraig Humbaugh reported that new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise and do not appear to be slowing anytime soon. Roughly two weeks ago, he said, our community was seeing between 60 and 70 cases a day. Last week that figure rose to between 90 and 95 cases a day. Fayette County is now posting between 115 and 120 cases a day, with a rolling seven-day average today of 121.

What we're seeing in Fayette County mirrors statewide trends, he said, noting that there have not been any confirmed cases of the Omicron variant in Kentucky. The highly-contagious Delta variant, along with holiday gatherings, and increased indoor activities as the weather changes are driving the increases, he said.

Humbaugh said that the Health Department is continuing to encourage all eligible individuals to get vaccinated against both the flu and COVID-19. Increasing the percentage of our population who are fully vaccinated is the key to ending the pandemic, he said.

At this time, he noted, only 20 percent of children aged 5 to 11 in Fayette County have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Among Fayette County children aged 12 to 17, roughly 45 percent have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

FCPS Report

Here are the case and quarantine totals for the past week (11/30/21 to 12/6/21) within the Fayette County Public Schools district, which has roughly 42,000 students and 8,000 employees:

- 145 new student cases
- 15 new staff cases
- 387 new student quarantines

Message from FCPS Superintendent Demetrus Liggins



It is concerning to see the number of new COVID-19 cases rising. This trend is happening not only in our community, as Dr. Humbaugh noted, but also in our schools.

Over the past week, 145 of our students have tested positive for COVID-19, which is the highest weekly total we've had since October 5. It is important to keep that number in perspective and remember that we serve more than 42,000 students. However, it is worth noting, because our case numbers were less than half of that each week during November.

I feel strongly that students learn best when they can experience the joys and advantages of being together on campus with classmates and caring adults. As such, our district has prioritized in-person learning and adopted layers of prevention strategies to minimize the possible spread of COVID-19 at school.

Since case numbers appear to be accelerating again, I'd like to encourage everyone to recommit yourself to being vigilant about prevention. The virus is still present, here and around the world, and we must continue to do everything we can to protect the health and well-being of our students, staff, and families.

Please continue to follow mask requirements, maximize physical distancing, practice hand washing, and reinforce cleaning protocols. It is especially important to monitor yourself and your family for symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home until you have received a negative test or symptoms

- 1 new staff quarantines

have resolved.

As of December 8, 2021, 497 students and four employees are currently in quarantine.

Let's keep each other healthy as we head into the end of the semester and the winter holiday, DL

FCPS Core COVID-19 Team Update

Here is a summary of items discussed during the December 7, 2021 meeting of the Fayette County Public Schools Core COVID-19 Team:

Vaccination Clinics: FCPS has partnered with Wild Health to offer free vaccination clinics at convenient school locations. [Register here](#) for clinics to be held on:

Wednesday, Dec. 8 at:

- Garden Springs Elementary, 4-7 p.m.
- Leestown Middle School, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 9 at:

- Millcreek Elementary, 4-7 p.m.
- Russell Cave Elementary, 4-7 p.m.

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