



Weekly COVID-19 News & Updates



Tuesday | September 7, 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 231.
- Roughly 27% of 12- to 17-year-olds are fully vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated individuals account for 70% of all COVID-19 cases, 80% of all COVID-19 hospitalizations and 90% of all COVID-19 patients in the ICU.

FCPS Report

Here are the case and quarantine totals for the past week (8/31/21 to 9/6/21) within the Fayette County Public Schools district, which has roughly 42,000 students and 8,000 employees:

- 197 new student cases
- 36 new staff cases
- 1,387 student quarantines
- 4 staff quarantines

As of September 7, 2021, 1,243 students and 3 employees are in quarantine.

Message from FCPS Superintendent Demetrus Liggins



Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response to our first COVID-19 weekly update. As we navigate in-person learning amid an ever-evolving situation with the virus, it is critical that our students, families, employees and community have access to the most current information available.

Many people have commented on the improved [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) that now allows you to sort by school, filter for different time periods, and see how many students and staff are currently in quarantine. In addition to information on the topics covered in today's Core COVID-19 Team meeting, this newsletter also includes answers to some of the most frequently asked questions from the past week.

As the Kentucky General Assembly convenes today in Frankfort to consider COVID-19 related matters, you may be interested in reading the [joint letter](#) that Fayette County Board of Education Chair Tyler Murphy, the superintendent and school board chair from the Jefferson County Public Schools, and I sent to our governor and legislators.

We believe it is possible to prioritize both in-person learning and the health and safety of our students, staff, and families, and we are optimistic that the outcome of this session will grant us the flexibility we need to do so.

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 September 7, 2021 meeting of the Fayette County Public Schools Core COVID-19 Team:

- **Vaccinations:** Free COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered by Wild Health on Saturday, September 11, from noon to 4 p.m. at following locations: Bryan Station High, Edythe J. Hayes Middle, Frederick Douglass High, Henry Clay High, Jessie Clark Middle, Lafayette High, Paul Laurence Dunbar High, and Bates Creek High. [Reserve an appointment here.](#) The Lexington Fayette County Health Department will be offering vaccinations at STEAM Academy from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 11. [Reserve an appointment here.](#)
- **Test to Stay Pilot:** Under the observation and support of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), starting next week, several Fayette County Public Schools will pilot a voluntary program that will allow families of students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at school to opt to have their children tested for COVID-19 each morning before school using a rapid PCR test. Students who test negative would be allowed to attend school, and any who test positive would be required to isolate at home. Families choosing not to participate in the pilot testing program would instead follow existing quarantine procedures. This initiative would be in partnership with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department and Gravity Diagnostics as well as the CDC. Details are still being finalized and additional information will be forthcoming.
- **Staffing Shortages:** In addition to our ongoing recruiting efforts, we are grateful to the Fayette County Board of Education members for [approving significant salary increases](#) for substitutes, child nutrition staff and transportation employees. Our hope is that this initial step will help us fill vacancies and we are pulling together a team of classified hourly staff to help us identify next steps. If you would like to provide input or feedback for that discussion, please [send an email here](#) prior to noon on Thursday, September 9. If you know of anyone looking for employment, please encourage them to apply at www.fcps.net/jobs.
- **Transportation:** We have 10 bus driver candidates who have earned their permits and are working toward licensure, and 23 other individuals studying for their permits. We will be starting another class next week, so there is still [time to apply](#)! The district is hiring an external consultant to help us with short-term and long-term solutions that could include pre-scheduled bus cancellations or delays that would enable families to make advance arrangements and ensure that the same families are not impacted repeatedly. We have identified routes that can be outsourced and we are working on a possible fourth tier of start times and long term sustainability. We have also placed a priority on ensuring people are available to answer phone calls.
- **Child Nutrition:** We're excited to welcome three new staff members to the Child Nutrition Team. To help us with our remaining 54 vacancies, we have met with leaders from local churches and faith groups and the 16th District PTA to solicit their help filling substitute and cafeteria vacancies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you add the current number of students and staff who have COVID-19 to the dashboard?

That is not a data point we have available because the dashboard pulls information from the database where new positive cases and quarantines are reported. Unlike quarantines that last 10 days for everyone, the isolation period for each individual is different, so when we report that someone has tested positive, we cannot prepopulate when their isolation will end.

I was around someone who has been told to quarantine because of possible exposure to COVID-19, but they are not positive. Do I have to quarantine?

Not unless they develop COVID-19 and you were with them while they were contagious. Those identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 are placed in quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated or had COVID-19 within the last 90 days. Close contacts of a close contact are not. Keep in mind that a quarantine is designed to keep those exposed to COVID-19 away from others just in case they develop the virus. So being a close contact to someone who has to quarantine does not automatically mean you were exposed to the virus.

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