



Tuesday | September 14, 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 255.
- Fayette County vaccination rates by age group:
- 91.5% of adults 65 and older are fully vaccinated
- 72% of adults 18 and older are fully vaccinated
- 29.1% of children between the ages of 12 and 17 are fully vaccinated

## FCPS Report

Here are the case and quarantine totals for the past week (9/7/21 to 9/13/21) within the Fayette County Public Schools district, which has roughly 42,000 students and 8,000 employees:

- 337 new student cases
- 38 new staff cases
- 1,484 new student quarantines
- 1 new staff quarantine

As of September 14, 2021, 1,361 students and 0 employees are in quarantine.

## Message from FCPS Superintendent Demetrus Liggins



We are grateful to the Kentucky General Assembly for taking action with Senate Bill 1 last week to allow school districts to temporarily assign students at the school, grade, classroom, or student group level to remote instruction due to significant absences of students or staff related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And we applaud the Fayette County Board of Education for taking unanimous action last night to confirm the mask requirements we have been following in FCPS for the past year and to grant me the authority to utilize the 20 remote instruction days when appropriate.

Unfortunately, our first instance of using this new flexibility happened this afternoon.

After eight students and staff in the same grade level at Dixie Elementary School tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, we switched the entire campus to remote learning for the rest of this week.

Other factors in this decision included the fact that we have had multiple students in other grade levels at Dixie test positive last week and the 130 students placed on quarantine over the past two weeks. Out of an abundance of caution, I felt this was the best course of action given the open concept building design at Dixie and large numbers of siblings impacted in grade levels throughout the school.

Our intent with this preemptive action is to contain any possible spread and keep our students and staff healthy. It is certainly not a decision I take lightly because we want to keep our students on campus with in-person learning as much as we can.

This goal of keeping students in-person is

also a driving force behind our test-to-stay quarantine pilot program under the observation and support of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Please see more details in the summary below of today's meeting with the FCPS Core COVID-19 Team. Please be well and take care of one another.

Thank you for your partnership, DL

## FCPS Core COVID-19 Team Update

Here is a summary of items discussed during the September 14, 2021 meeting of the Fayette County Public Schools Core COVID-19 Team:

- **Test to Stay:** Two middle schools and five elementary schools will participate in our pilot of a voluntary test to stay quarantine option under the observation and support of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other partners in this effort are the Kentucky Department of Public Health, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department and Gravity Diagnostics. We will communicate with families at these seven school tomorrow to share specific protocols, consent forms and frequently asked questions. This information will also be posted on our district website and shared with our community. We have included some answers to frequently asked questions below.
- **Staffing Shortage:** We are excited to welcome three new bus drivers and one new substitute driver to our transportation department! Over the next two weeks, we expect to have four additional drivers ready to start driving. We also have 18 candidates studying for their permits, and 20 people lined up for a class to begin next week. In the area of child nutrition, we are seeing fewer vacancies each day, but we are still looking to hire more than 50 additional people. To join the Fayette County Public Schools full-time in either of these critical shortage areas, or as a substitute for these as well as classroom positions, please visit [www.fcps.net/jobs](http://www.fcps.net/jobs).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***How will the Test-to-Stay Program work?***

At participating schools, students who are identified as a close contact to a positive patient will have the option – with family consent – to come to the testing location (generally the gym or cafeteria of the school) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during their quarantine period and wait for testing. The tests that are being used are rapid PCR tests that will take 30-45 minutes to process. Once the results are known, students who test negative will proceed to class. Those who test positive will be sent home and will need to isolate for the duration of their contagious period.

### ***How were schools chosen for the Test-to-Stay Pilot Program?***

We selected schools on the basis of COVID-19 cases and quarantines at the time we began the program. We also tried to select schools in many different areas of town, in order to get a good population sample.

### ***Why isn't Test-to-Stay being offered at all schools?***

We are piloting this program in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine if it will be expanded to additional school locations.

### ***Why isn't Test-to-Stay being offered at the high school level?***

The program is only for elementary and middle schools right now, since most students in those buildings are not eligible for vaccinations. At the high school level, students have the option of getting vaccinated so that they will not have to quarantine unless they display symptoms of COVID-19.



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