



Tuesday | September 21, 2021

Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Report

Commissioner of Health Dr. Kraig Humbaugh shared that the rolling seven-day average of new cases in Fayette County is 202.

He also announced a new procedure for anyone who needs proof that they have received the COVID-19 vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccine card received at the time of vaccination is issued by the CDC and cannot be replaced with a new card, however:

- If You Received Your COVID-19 Vaccine from the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department: To get your proof of vaccination, use this [Proof of Vaccination Form](#) or email COVIDReplacementCard@lfc-hd.org.
- If You Received Your COVID-19 Vaccine from Other Locations: Anyone vaccinated anywhere in Kentucky can get proof of a COVID-19 vaccine through the [Kentucky Immunization Registry](#), whether you're fully vaccinated or have only had one dose of a two-dose regimen. Call 502-564-0038 or email KYIRHelpdesk@ky.gov.

FCPS Report

Here are the case and quarantine totals for the past week (9/14/21 to 9/20/21) within the Fayette County Public Schools district, which has roughly 42,000 students and 8,000 employees:

- 270 new student cases
- 43 new staff cases
- 1,241 new student quarantines
- 6 new staff quarantine

As of September 21, 2021, 1,251 students and 5 employees are in quarantine.

Message from FCPS Superintendent Demetrus Liggins



All of our employees and families should have received information yesterday about our "[Test to Stay in School](#)" pilot program, which will begin next week at Breckinridge, Clays Mill, Dixie, James Lane Allen, and Julius Marks elementary schools, as well as Crawford and Jessie Clark middle schools.

We are implementing this initiative in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Kentucky Department of Health, and the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, following its success in other states and nations.

Many of you have asked for the source of the data I used in yesterday's announcement of the "Test to Stay in School" pilot when referencing the low in-school transmission of the virus. Findings from [several studies cited by the CDC](#) suggest that when precautions such as the ones we have in place here in FCPS are consistently followed, transmission in schools is minimal.

Additionally, research conducted in Britain and Utah have found that the "test to stay" approach is both safe and effective in reducing the amount of instructional time students miss because of quarantines.

In Utah, officials found that case rates were not significantly higher at schools that allowed students to remain in class with daily testing than at those that required at-home quarantines. In Britain, only 2 percent of school-based close contacts ultimately tested positive for the virus, which means that at-home quarantines were keeping 49 uninfected students out of class for every one student who tested positive.

Those findings are in line with what we have seen anecdotally happening in our schools. Although there have been cases of students testing positive for COVID-19 after being exposed to a classmate, that is not common. Most of the FCPS students who have contracted the virus have done so following exposure outside of school at home or in social settings.

We will be closely monitoring data from our "test to stay in school" campuses – as will our health partners – to determine whether to expand this program. For additional information, please visit www.fcps.net/test2stay or call 859-381-3949.

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 21, 2021 meeting of the Fayette County Public Schools Core COVID-19 Team:

- **Voluntary Testing:** Since Gravity Diagnostics will be working with our "Test to Stay in School" pilot program, we have added another testing partner to help make FREE voluntary COVID-19 testing available for students, staff and families. Bluewater Lab will soon be offering PCR tests in addition to Wild Health. Testing locations and options are updated each week [here](#). Please check before you go and remember that some sites require an appointment. Testing is open and free for all students, employees and families of Fayette County Public Schools.
- **Staffing Shortage:** We are still hiring full time employees in our transportation and child nutrition departments and looking for substitutes in all areas. Please encourage someone you know to apply at www.fcps.net/jobs. We hope to hire 36 full-time and relief bus drivers and 46 full-time food service employees.
- **Employee Vaccination Incentive Program:** Fayette County Public Schools will be participation in the vaccine incentive for staff being sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education. All employees who are fully vaccinated before December 1 will be eligible to receive a stipend. More information will be available soon. Vaccination appointments are available [here](#).

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



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