

April 6, 2021

Dear Fayette County Public Schools families:

Welcome back from spring break! I hope each of you had the opportunity to spend time – safely – with loved ones last week. We have hit the ground running this week, excited to finish the last six weeks of school.

Today's meeting with our partners from the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department revealed continued good news with low numbers of community spread, and a 7-day average of new cases of just 25. The doctors advised us that any uptick caused by spring break travel or gatherings would not be visible for roughly 10 days to two weeks. We remain hopeful that our community followed best practices and everyone remains healthy.

While we were on break, you may have seen that the Kentucky Department of Education updated its Healthy at School Guidance and schools are no longer expected to screen students for temperatures before entering buildings or riding the school bus. We discussed this new information with the health experts from the Health Department this morning, and they are in agreement with this change. Thus, as a district, we will discontinue daily temperature checks for students beginning Thursday, April 8, 2021.

We still need our families to monitor their children for signs of illness, including a fever. Children exhibiting a fever should be kept at home. Please do not give your child fever-reducing medication and send them to school.

We will still take the temperatures of students who experience illness while at school. If a student begins displaying symptoms of COVID-19, we also have the option of offering rapid testing for families who want that opportunity. Tests are administered only with parent or guardian permission, and only in the presence of an adult designated by the family.

We continue to face intermittent challenges with bus driver staffing. Changes with our transportation supports have made a difference, and we have only had a handful of routes cancelled or delayed. It is critical that families have accurate contact information on file so that we can reach you about last minute changes to school bus routes and schedules. Please be sure your child's school has your updated phone number in case our transportation team needs to reach you.

Greater numbers of people are now fully vaccinated, and it's especially encouraging that vaccines are now available to everyone 16 years of age and older. Appointments to receive the vaccine, which is free and safe, are available at:

- <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/covid-19/vaccine> for the Pfizer vaccine, available to anyone 16 or older
- www.lfchd.org/vaccine for the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine, available to anyone 18 or older.
- Or check <https://vaccinefinder.org> for other locations.
- Free rides to COVID-19 vaccination clinics are available through Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass. Please call 1-888-848-0989 in advance to schedule a ride.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility as we navigate the landscape of in-person schooling during a pandemic. It takes all of us working in concert to ensure our students continue to have this opportunity, and we appreciate all you are doing to help!

Sincerely,

Marlene Helm,
acting superintendent