

UPDATED COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines

Fayette County Public Schools is committed to maximizing in-person learning opportunities and has implemented layered prevention strategies recommended by health and medical experts to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 and safeguard the well-being of students, employees, and families.

Throughout the pandemic, Fayette County Public Schools has aligned our COVID-19 protocols to the guidance of our partners at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department and Kentucky Department for Public Health.

On January 10, 2022, the Kentucky Department for Public Health announced revised guidance that will reduce the amount of school that students and staff miss because of COVID-19. Their new guidelines are based on the latest findings from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing that when universal masking is in place, students and staff are less likely to contract COVID-19 at school.

Here's what the changes mean for Fayette County Public Schools students, employees, and families starting Tuesday, January 18, 2022:



Prevention:

- **Masks:** FCPS will continue to require face masks while indoors in all district facilities and FCPS vehicles, including on school buses.*
- **Mitigation:** FCPS will continue to implement layered precautionary measures including enhanced cleaning protocols, frequent handwashing, physical distancing when possible, and extensive air-quality improvements.
- **Monitoring for Symptoms:** Students and employees should continue the practice of staying home if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID -19, such as fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater) or chills, a new cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, muscle or body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, and an onset of loss of taste or smell. They should not return to school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- **Vaccination:** Medical professionals continue to encourage all eligible students, employees, families, and community members to get vaccinated against COVID-19, and receive boosters as appropriate. The district will continue to provide educational materials related to vaccines and work with health partners to offer vaccine clinics at convenient school and district locations.



Testing

- Beginning Wednesday, January 19, 2022, voluntary testing for students and employees will be available before school starts at every school in the district on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Appointments are required and can be made online at www.fcps.net/COVIDtesting. Students and staff should register to be tested at their school location.
- Testing for those other than students and employees is available at 100 Midland Avenue (the old Herald-Leader building) and 1126 Russell Cave Road (the FCPS Warehouse). Appointments are available online at kyvax.wildhealth.com.
- The district's Test-to-Stay-in-School program will now be available to all students and staff regardless of where they were exposed to COVID-19. Participants in Test-to-Stay must remain symptom-free.



Isolation

- Local health departments and medical providers will continue to issue isolation orders for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and schools will continue to honor their instructions.



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Quarantine

- In accordance with Kentucky Department for Public Health guidelines for school districts with universal masking, FCPS students and employees will not be quarantined for in-school exposure.*
- Schools will notify families and staff if an individual in the classroom has tested positive for COVID-19. Families and staff will be encouraged to monitor for symptoms and follow health department guidance about being tested for COVID-19 on day 5, 6, or 7 from the exposure.
- Those who have been placed in quarantine by the health department because of an out-of-school exposure will have the choice to quarantine at home or participate in the Test-to-Stay-in-School program.



Reporting

- Under state law, families should notify the school district within 24 hours of learning their child has tested positive for COVID-19.
- FCPS employees who test positive for COVID-19 are also required to inform the district.
- Reports can be made by calling 859-381-FCPS (3277) or submitting your name and phone number via the online form at <https://bit.ly/FCPSreport>.
- FCPS will publish the number of new COVID-19 cases among students and employees by school on the FCPS COVID-19 Dashboard at www.fcps.net/COVID19. Quarantine data will not be reported after Tuesday, January 18, 2022.



Remote Instruction

- FCPS continues to believe that keeping our students on campus with access to caring educators and wrap-around support is the best way to nurture their academic success and social-emotional well-being.
- It is possible that COVID-19 may create conditions that warrant temporarily shifting a school or special program to remote learning.
- District and school leaders will continue to monitor COVID-19 case data, as well as student and staff absences.
- School-by-school decisions will be based on the most current information available regarding illness within the school community, the inability to cover classroom teacher absences, or staff absences that impede the school's ability to operate safely.

*There are limited circumstances in which exceptions may be considered.

This guidance is provided based on the protocols recently issued by the Kentucky Department for Public Health. This document is intended only to be guidance for families and staff related to COVID-19 procedures in our schools and facilities and not to provide medical advice. As always, families and staff should consult with medical professionals for personal health-related decisions.

