



KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



REOPENING HANDBOOK FOR FAMILIES

2020-2021 Academic Year (Revised April 2021)

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is a national crisis that poses a serious health risk for everyone. With this in mind, we have been moving forward with a phased back-to-school plan for the 2020-2021 year. This plan continues to be updated based on the status of the pandemic and the development of new best practices.

On March 19, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance based on science and data indicating that it is safe for schools to return to some form of in-person learning. The CDC guidance calls for school districts to take into account the mitigation strategies available to the district and the rate of community transmission within the district's community in its reopening plan.

Based on KCMO Covid-19 transmission rates, KCPS COVID-19 school safety mitigation strategies and discussions and planning sessions with our district community, KCPS transitioned to hybrid in-person learning in March and April. Starting in May, KCPS will begin to transition to full-time in-person learning to the extent possible. Return dates will be determined by grade level and if the student falls into a critical needs group (e.g. high minutes Exceptional Education, beginner level English Language Learners, etc.). KCPS will continue to have virtual learning available through the KCPS Virtual Academy for families who do not want to return to school sites at this time.

From the very beginning of this pandemic, our policy has been to make decisions based on science and data. We will continue to follow that policy, which means doing everything possible to maximize the health and wellness of students, families, staff and visitors as we return to in-person teaching and learning.

Prevention Strategies by Level of Community Transmission

Prevention Strategies: All Schools			
<p>All schools implement 5 key prevention strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal and correct use of masks required • Physical distancing • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette • Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities • Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine 			
Prevention Strategies by Level of Community Transmission			
Low Transmission: Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<p>Elementary Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet between students in classrooms</p>		<p>Elementary Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms Cohorting² recommended when possible</p>	
<p>Middle and High Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet between students in classrooms</p>		<p>Middle and High Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms Cohorting recommended when possible</p>	<p>Middle and High Schools Schools that can use cohorting: at least 3 feet of distance Schools that cannot use cohorting: at least 6 feet distance between students in classrooms⁴</p>
<p>Sports and extracurricular activities Sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance to the greatest extent possible⁵</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities Sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance required⁶</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with more than 6 feet of physical distancing⁶</p>	

¹Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%).

²Cohorting involves creating groups of students that are separated from other groups by at least 6 feet throughout the entire day. Cohorting can be implemented in either full in-person instruction or hybrid instruction, or through other strategies.

³In middle and high schools, 6 feet is recommended in areas of high community transmission, unless they can implement cohorting. Schools may consider using reduced attendance, hybrid instruction, or other strategies to ensure 6 feet of physical distance between students in middle and high schools that do not use cohorting. Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 is intended to identify occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infection at the individual level and is performed on individuals with or without suspected COVID-19 infection in accordance with the test's authorization and labeling.

⁴Middle and high schools in areas of high community transmission should implement cohorting if they use less than 6 feet between students in classrooms. If cohorting is not possible, 6 feet between students is recommended. Middle and high schools can use strategies such as reduced attendance (some students are virtual only at all times) or hybrid instruction to achieve 6 feet of distance.

⁵School officials should implement limits on spectators and attendees for sports, extracurricular activities, and events to ensure 6 feet of physical distance and require use of masks.

⁶Schools may consider using screening testing for student athletes and adults (e.g., coaches, trainers) who support these activities to facilitate safe participation and reduce risk of transmission. See screening testing section and Table 4 for additional details.

Our website includes more information about our reopening plans, policies and procedures. This information will continue to be updated with details around our COVID-19 prevention strategies for a return to hybrid and in-person learning, a dashboard with data for positivity rates within KCPS boundaries, and safety procedures for hybrid and in-person learning.

Thank you for your support as we continue to make decisions in the best interest of safety and learning for our students, families and staff. If you have questions, concerns or input regarding our reopening plans, please email communications@kcpublicschools.org or click on the "Let's Talk" feature at the top of every page on our website. We commit to clear communication as details continue to be refined and adjusted based on data and CDC and health department guidance.

Contents

Introduction	1
Prevention Strategies by Level of Community Transmission	2
Screening Students	4
Health Maintenance	4
Transportation	5
School Entry	5
Health and Sanitation Guidelines	6
Masks/Face Coverings	6
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	7
Hand Hygiene	7
Classrooms, Physical Distancing, and Cohorts or Pods	7
Full-Time, In-Person Learning Model Overview	7
Hybrid Learning Model Overview	8
Classroom Setup	8
Recess and Physical Education	8
Specialty Classes	9
Child Nutrition Services	9
Breakfast Model: Sack Breakfasts In the Classroom	9
Breakfast Model: Grab & Go Sack Breakfasts	9
Lunch Model: Service In the Café	10
Lunch Model: Sack Lunch Served In Classroom	10
Special Health Care Considerations	10
Plan for Acute Respiratory Treatment	11
Health Office Procedures	11
Quarantine, Isolation, and Containment	12
COVID-19 Quarantine	12
Quarantine “Q” Room	12
Childcare Services	14
Facilities and Custodial Services	14

Classroom Layout	14
Indoor Air Quality Management	14
Cleaning and Sanitizing	15
Athletics & Extracurricular Activities	15
Further Information regarding KCPS’s Reopening Plans and Response to COVID-19	17

Screening Students

Parents/caregivers should perform a daily assessment of students for symptoms prior to school arrival. Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Students experiencing any of these symptoms should not report to school and the parent/caregiver should contact the school nurse.

Students with evidence of an acute illness or close contact with a person with COVID-19 should not report to school. If a student has been given fever-reducing medications, such as Ibuprofen or Tylenol in the past 24 hours, the student should not go to school and the parent/caregiver should contact the school nurse. Additionally, if anyone in your household has tested positive in the last 14 days or been told to isolate, the student must stay home.

- Parents/caregivers should monitor their child for signs and symptoms of infectious illness and keep the student home and not attend in-person classes if experiencing symptoms or ill
- The school will implement daily temperature checks upon entrance to the school
 - Any student with a temperature of 99.1 or greater should be sent to the health office for further evaluation by the nurse
- Any student who shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will need to be picked up within an hour of discovery

Health Maintenance

Health maintenance is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- All students are encouraged to receive appropriate health maintenance checks (preventive and well-child visits), as recommended
- All students are required to receive all appropriate immunizations and the seasonal influenza vaccine is strongly encouraged. Immunizations decrease the incidence of many infectious diseases, which may mimic COVID-19 and cause unnecessary absences
- Students non-compliant with immunizations will be unable to attend in-person classes or school-related activities
- Parents will need to update the school nurse with information about any health conditions or concerns



COVID-19 Vaccine

- COVID-19 vaccine for eligible students is strongly encouraged. For information on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine or information on where in our area to receive vaccine, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/vaccination.html> for the most up-to-date information

Transportation

Bus transportation is necessary for children to get to and from school safely. Risks for both students and drivers will be mitigated. Parents/caregivers should prioritize a safe alternative mode of transportation, when available, to optimize physical distancing on the bus.

The following risk mitigation strategies will be employed:

- Loading all buses from back to front.
- Limit close interactions on the bus
- Targeting 1 student per seat
- Students residing together may ride in the same seat
- For situations where this is not possible an individual risk mitigation plan will be created for that route.
- Students will have assigned seat and will have magnetic name tags above each seat.
- Using tap-on/tap-off student ID cards for entering and exiting for tracing purposes. This will help with contact tracing efforts as needed. Drivers will keep record any student riders not in possession of their ID card
- Face masks will be required by both the driver and the riders
- The exception will be for medical concerns that supersede mask usage.
- Disposable masks will be available at the entry point to the bus.
- Buses will be disinfected between each bus run and at the end of each day after return to the bus barn.
- Hand sanitizer will also be available for student use upon boarding and exiting the bus.
- Social distancing will be achieved in cabs to the extent possible. Weather permitting, windows can be opened to allow for airflow

We are not able to adhere to the three feet of spacing recommended by the CDC; however, these steps, if mask usage is adhered to by all riders, will help reduce the likelihood of transmission.

School Entry

- The formation of large groups and crowding should be avoided at the point of entry
- Multiple entrances should be used when possible
- Doors should be left open at entry so students do not need to touch doors
- Masked staff members or masked parent/caregiver should assist with transition from car to school
- should assist with transition from car to school (as opposed to parent/caregiver)
- Hand hygiene should occur at school/classroom entry
- Students should be visually screened for signs of illness upon entry to the school/classroom
- Parents/visitors cannot enter without prior approval
- Dismissal will be staggered with masked staff or masked parent/caregiver accompanying students to their transportation home



Health and Sanitation Guidelines

The decision to reopen our school buildings for in-person classes will be based on data and science. We will work closely with public health officials before reopening any of our school buildings. This process will not follow any predetermined timeline but will rather evolve based on the status of the pandemic in our community. Our response will balance the need to protect public health and provide a public education.

We have created these guidelines to protect the health and wellness of students, staff and visitors when school buildings do begin to reopen. The good news is that we know that we can maximize the safety of our stakeholders during this pandemic by following three easy rules:

Mask On – Masks are required when in our school buildings and other sites, and they must cover the nose and mouth.

Clean Up – We will keep our school buildings clean to the highest standards and we will encourage all students, staff, parents, guardians and visitors to monitor their own health and to practice excellent self-cleanliness practices, including washing their hands regularly and avoiding touching their own faces.

Stay Safe – We will facilitate social distancing in our schools and other buildings and will encourage all students, staff, parents, guardians and visitors to maintain as much social distance from other people as possible.

If everyone works hard to follow the “Mask On, Clean Up and Stay Safe” guidelines during this pandemic, we are confident that we will minimize the number of positive COVID-19 cases that result from interactions in our buildings.

Masks/Face Coverings

Masking has been proven to be an effective way to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Masks need to cover the mouth and nose at all times. In this document, the term “mask” is used to include both a cloth face covering and medical grade mask. Masks with exhalation valves are prohibited, gaiters are not recommended.

- All students will be required to wear a mask
- Masks will cover both the mouth and nose
- Students may wear their own masks or one will be provided by the district
- Wearing a face shield in addition to a mask can be considered but a face shield alone is not a substitute for a mask
- Masks will be worn at all times, except during active eating and drinking
- In Pre-K, children older than 2 years can safely wear masks. Masks will be required, but “mask breaks” may need to be considered. Mask breaks can include time outside or where a child is physically distanced from others
- Masks should never be worn while sleeping. During naptime, children should be physically distanced. Consider arranging children head to toe and putting up temporary barriers (e.g. mats) where children can be safely monitored but distanced
- Exceptions may be considered for young children (e.g. preschool) where masking may be difficult due to inappropriate mask hygiene (e.g. frequently touching mask and/or pulling the mask down so it does not cover the mouth and nose), or in children with difficulty with speech or language, or other educational needs
- Other exceptions may include students with special healthcare needs upon recommendation from their primary care provider
- Cloth face coverings should be washed daily and when soiled
- Additional masks will be available for students if mask is forgotten or becomes soiled and/or wet



- Students will be reminded regularly as to proper mask wearing, including hand hygiene before putting mask on and taking it off, avoidance of touching mask, and ensuring mask covers the mouth and nose
- Masks should be properly labeled to ensure the masks are not shared between students

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Although face coverings are required to be worn by all staff, some staff require PPE due to the nature of their role in the school.

- All school nurses will have access to appropriate PPE to take care of an ill student or staff member. Appropriate PPE includes gown, gloves, medical-grade mask, and eye shield
- For students who require an aerosol-generating procedure such as suctioning, staff will require full PPE
- Gloves should be used when handling food, caring for an ill student or staff member, or when bodily fluid contamination may occur. Otherwise, gloves are not necessary.

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is an important step in decreasing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Hand hygiene will occur:

- Before eating food
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- Before and after touching (e.g. putting on or taking off) a mask
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal food, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

Hand Washing Instructions:

- Wet hands with clean, running water (warm or cold) and apply soap
- Lather hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails
- Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds. Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end two times
- Rinse hands well under clean, running water
- Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them

An alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not available. Using soap and water is more effective than alcohol-based hand sanitizers and should be used whenever possible.

- Apply hand sanitizer product to the palm of one hand (read the label to determine correct amount)
- Rub hands together
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds

Classrooms, Physical Distancing, and Cohorts or Pods

Full-Time, In-Person Learning Model Overview

Daily Schedule for Students in School

Elementary

- Students and teachers engage in learning on campus every day that class is in session

Hybrid Learning Model Overview

Daily Schedule for Students in School

Secondary

- Block schedule – four classes per day, extended time
- Limits movement within school to the extent possible to also allow for continuation of teaching and learning processes

Daily Schedule for Students at Home/Distance Learning

- Self-directed
- Students complete asynchronous tasks from all courses
 - Application of taught material
 - Introduction of material to be taught

Classroom Setup

Every effort will be made to physically distance and cohort or pod children. This means that the children will learn together, eat together, and play together allowing for the rapid identification of those who may have been exposed should a positive COVID-19 case occur in the cohort or pod.

- Ideally, desks will be placed three feet apart
- If using tables, students podded at the table are to be podded in all other school areas where six feet of social distance is not possible
- In Pre-K classrooms, limit the number of students in centers. Create individual tubs for materials that are typically shared. Space centers to allow for social distancing
- Outdoor classroom space for learning, eating, and playing should be used as much as possible, weather permitting
- Large spaces, such as auditoriums and gymnasiums, should be used as classrooms, when able, to optimize space and physical distancing
- When physical distancing cannot be maintained, children should be kept in cohorts or pods. Masking and physical barrier mitigating strategies will be utilized
- Physical barriers should be utilized as a mitigation strategy
- Teachers should rotate between classrooms instead of having children move from class to class, when feasible
- Student desks should all face the same direction, when possible
- Classes are required to have assigned seating to assist with contact tracing
- All desks will be wiped down between classes
- Minimize the mixing of students between classes and grades (e.g., bathrooms)

Recess and Physical Education

Recess and physical education are important for students and should be part of the elementary school day when possible.

- Outdoor activities should be considered whenever possible
- Masks must be worn even outdoors when six feet social distancing cannot be maintained
- When participating in physical activity, students should be organized into cohorts where possible
- Hand hygiene should occur before and after recess and physical education
- Physical education activities should avoid prolonged, close contact, and focus on individual skills and drills
- Equipment used during recess and physical education will be cleaned and disinfected between use



Specialty Classes

The CDC has designated some activities to be a higher risk for spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

- High-risk activities, including band and choir, should take place outside where physical distancing of at least six feet can occur
- If physical distancing cannot occur, consider virtual options

Child Nutrition Services

Child Nutrition Services developed the following services model options and provided building principals with recommendations based on size, enrollment, floor plan, café size, etc. Using those recommendations, each building leader selected the appropriate model for their site.

Breakfast Model: Sack Breakfasts In the Classroom

Procedure

- Café Manager will collect class rosters each Friday from the Secretary by 10 am for the following week.
- Café/ School/ LINC Staff will pick up breakfast wagons from cafeteria and deliver to the designated area. (Classroom Delivery will be the preferred method)
- Teachers will retrieve breakfast wagon from designated area.
- Students will select their meal upon entry into the classroom.
- Teachers will denote meal participation on the approved DESE Meal Claim Form.
- Breakfast should last no more than 20 minutes.
- Trash receptacles will be available in all hallways for breakfast waste.
- Unopened, leftover food items will be returned to the Café for tracking and discard.
- DESE Meal Claim Forms and Wagons will be placed outside the classroom upon completion.

Cleaning Protocol

- Kitchens are disinfected at the beginning and end of the day and sanitized throughout the day.
- At the end of breakfast, student desks/eating surfaces should be disinfected by students and/or Teachers.
- Classrooms will receive cleaning supplies/refills from custodial services.
- Building custodians will collect trash receptacles and perform deep cleaning as needed.

Breakfast Model: Grab & Go Sack Breakfasts

Procedure

- Grab & Go Stations will be at designated location(s) to assure social distancing and breakfast accessibility for all students.
- Café Staff will manage each station and record meals on DESE Meal Claim Form.
- School Leadership to determine where students eat their meal.
- Breakfast should be scheduled for the first 20 minutes of the day.

Cleaning Protocol

- Kitchens are disinfected at the beginning and end of the day and sanitized throughout the day.
- At the end of breakfast, student desks/eating surfaces should be disinfected by students and/or Teachers.
- Classrooms will receive cleaning supplies/refills from custodial services.
- Building custodians will collect trash receptacles and perform deep cleaning as needed.



Lunch Model: Service In the Café

Procedure

- Principal will create staggered lunch schedule to ensure classes are not co-mingled and eat at separate tables.
- Principal will create cafe seating chart (by classroom).
- Principal will schedule café supervision during each lunch period.
- Each Café will have a designated enter and exit route.
- Students should have a minimum of 15 minutes eating time.
- Students should maintain social distance to the extent possible during meal service.
- Physical barriers should be used as a mitigation strategy when students are eating
- Students will be escorted by teacher to the cafeteria and will sit at designated tables.
- Custodial and Café Staff will clear tables and sanitize between classrooms.
- Upon meal completion teachers will retrieve students from cafeteria.

Cleaning Protocol

- Kitchens are disinfected at the beginning and end of the day and sanitized throughout the day.
- At the beginning, during, and end of each lunch shift, eating surfaces should be disinfected by café and custodial staff.
- Building custodians will collect trash receptacles and perform deep cleaning as needed.

Lunch Model: Sack Lunch Served In Classroom

Procedure

- Café Manager will collect class rosters each Friday from the Secretary by 10 am for the following week.
- Café/ School/ LINC Staff will pick up breakfast wagons from cafeteria and deliver to the designated area. (Classroom Delivery will be the preferred method)
- Teachers will retrieve breakfast wagon from designated area.
- Students will select their meal upon entry into the classroom.
- Teachers will denote meal participation on the approved DESE Meal Claim Form.
- Lunch should last no more than 30 minutes.
- Trash receptacles will be available in all hallways for breakfast waste.
- Unopened, leftover food items will be returned to the Café for tracking and discard.
- DESE Meal Claim Forms and Wagons will be placed outside the classroom upon completion.

Cleaning Protocol

- Kitchens are disinfected at the beginning and end of the day and sanitized throughout the day.
- At the end of lunch, student desks/eating surfaces should be disinfected by students and/or Teachers.
- Classrooms will receive cleaning supplies/refills from custodial services.
- Building custodians will collect trash receptacles and perform deep cleaning as needed.

Special Health Care Considerations

Protection of children who fall into the “high risk” category for severe illness due to COVID-19 is of our utmost concern.

- The school nurse will identify students with special health care considerations that are at a higher risk for severe illness response to COVID-19. The school nurse will work with families and physicians to support the health and safety of identified students



- The CDC has identified those at higher risk for severe illness response to COVID-19 to include but are not limited to:
 - Chronic lung conditions
 - Serious heart conditions
 - Immunocompromising conditions including cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic kidney conditions requiring dialysis
 - Liver conditions
 - Sickle cell disease and other blood disorders
 - Obesity
 - Certain disabilities including:
 - Limited mobility or cannot avoid coming into close contact with others who may be infected, such as direct support providers and family members
 - Trouble understanding information or practicing preventative measures such as hand washing and social distancing
 - Not being able to communicate symptoms of illness

Health plans, IEPs and 504s can be updated as needed for COVID-19 health and safety considerations.

Plan for Acute Respiratory Treatment

Discontinue nebulizer treatments altogether. Parents must supply alternate asthma medication delivery systems such as inhalers with spacers if available.

Health Office Procedures

To ensure the safety of every student, the health office will limit students when possible and avoid admittance of children with COVID-19 symptoms.

- Notify (call, radio, text) the nurse before sending students to the health office
- Daily medication administration will be handled in the health office by appointment time
- Minor ailments will be handled in the classroom. If you have any concerns please call the nurse or send the student to the nurse
- Students will stop before entering the health office. The nurse will meet students for temporal thermometer checks. If the student has no fever or symptoms of COVID-19, the student proceeds into the health office as usual
- Any student presenting with a temporal reading of 99.1 or higher will require an oral temperature be taken. Any student with a temperature of 100.0 or greater will be sent to the Q room for parent pickup.
- Any student presenting to the health office with symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be sent to the Q room for further evaluation and parent pickup
- Chairs will be appropriately spaced in the hallways outside of the health office for student overflow
- All COVID positive and presumed positive students will be logged in a database for each school site available only to the school nurse. A separate district-wide database will be maintained by the nurse manager
- The school nurse will provide a daily do-not-enter list to the principal and attendance secretary with return dates

- Any students with symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be encouraged to follow-up with their provider per Children’s Mercy recommendations.

Quarantine, Isolation, and Containment

Schools have a written plan for isolation and containment when a student or staff member is ill.

Parents/caregivers will be provided pertinent information, including symptoms for which a student will be sent home, the time interval in which a student must be picked up, and the criteria for return to school. All schools will have a designated space where students can be placed until picked up by a parent/caregiver. Students will not be left unattended. A designated staff member will monitor the student and ensure their safety until the student is picked up.

Exposure: Contact within six feet for a total of 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period within the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms in a person with COVID-19 or a positive COVID-19 test in an asymptomatic person. This definition is based on the CDC but may vary based on recommendations from the local health department. If there are questions on whether another person was exposed, please contact your local health department or school nurse.

Quarantine: Keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others.

COVID-19 Quarantine

Quarantine for 14 days from last contact with a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. This could be longer than 14 days depending if the person with COVID-19 was unable to isolate from the exposed person (e.g., caregiver and child) or if additional exposure with COVID-19 positive persons occurred (e.g., multiple household members). If a person tests negative for the virus that causes COVID-19 during quarantine, they must still remain in quarantine for 14 days (or longer). Any student exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cannot go to school. If a student is identified as having been exposed and they are already at school, they will be isolated and the parent/caregiver will be called for prompt pickup.

Children who have had a confirmed COVID-19 illness and fully recovered do NOT need to be quarantined if they are subsequently exposed within the next three months and do not have symptoms. A positive antibody test does not exempt a student from quarantine. An eligible child who has received their last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least two weeks prior to a know COVID-19 exposure will not have to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.

Quarantine “Q” Room

Every school will have a designated room, separate from the nurse office, used strictly for isolation of suspected COVID-19 cases.

- Any student with symptoms associated with COVID-19 should be sent to the Q room. Notify the school nurse before sending a student to the Q room
- The student must always wear a mask while in the Q room
- Any staff monitoring the Q room will need to be in the proper PPE. According to the CDC, monitors need to wear a surgical mask



Isolation

Isolation separates people who are infected with COVID-19 away from people who are not infected.

COVID-19 Asymptomatic (without symptoms) Isolation:

- Isolation for at least 10 days from a positive test

COVID-19 Symptomatic (with symptoms) Isolation:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- And at least 24 hours since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms

Any student with COVID-19 symptoms should not go to school. If a student is identified as having or develops COVID-19 symptoms once the student is already at school, they will be isolated and the parent/caregiver will be called for prompt pickup. The school nurse will determine when a student can return to school.

Identification of a COVID-19 Positive Case

The school and/or school staff may be notified of a COVID-19 positive case prior to the local health department. In this case, the school liaison to the health department will promptly notify the health department where the student resides to report the case. The liaison will confirm what, if any, additional information is needed and to whom it should be provided.

School Case Investigation

School nurses are familiarized with the principles of contact tracing in order to rapidly facilitate identification of exposed students and staff and assist local health departments. All KCPS school nurses have taken The Johns Hopkins COVID-19 contact tracing course.

- Once a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the school nurse in charge of contact tracing will identify staff members or students that should be considered exposed based on classroom layouts, schedules, etc.
- The district liaison to the health department will work with the health department to identify any exposed persons
- Schools are prepared to notify any exposed persons so they can be immediately dismissed from school or informed to not return to school until their quarantine is complete
- Schools will notify other students that a person in the school was diagnosed with COVID-19. If a student is considered a close contact, parents will be notified by phone or letter (if unable to reach by phone)
- Every effort will be made to keep the identity of the COVID-19 positive person private from other staff and students
- The decision to close a classroom and/or school will be made in conjunction with the local health department
 - Current guidelines suggest: should there be over 5% of the student body in a building or district that test positive any day, 4% that test positive over 2 days in a row, or over 3% for three days in a row, that the building or district close for 10 days
 - Nursing will work with attendance to monitor absences and notify the nurse manager if a school shows a drop of 10% below normal attendance. The nurse manager will notify the health department for guidance

COVID-19 Vaccine for Eligible Students

- COVID-19 vaccine for eligible students is strongly encouraged. For information on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine or information on where in our area to receive vaccine, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/vaccination.html> for the most up-to-date information.

Childcare Services

Free before- and after-school childcare is provided for elementary school students in KCPS by LINC. This service was suspended when school buildings were closed and students moved to remote and virtual learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LINC will resume providing high quality childcare for KCPS families for students who are returning to in-person learning. Enrollment will be handled by LINC coordinators at each site. This service will be available at elementary schools from 7 a.m. until classes start and until 6 p.m. after classes during regular class day. While KCPS utilizes a hybrid schedule, LINC childcare will only be provided for students who attend school on their assigned days.

LINC staff will follow all of the district's COVID-19 response policies and procedures.

Facilities and Custodial Services

Classroom Layout

- Space student desks a minimum of three feet apart to the greatest extent possible. Place markings on the floor to help students, teachers and custodial staff remember where to place desks. In classrooms where three feet of spacing is not available, social distancing will be achieved to the greatest extent possible and all layered mitigation strategies (masking, partitions and podding of students, in particular) will be in place.
- Create more floor space by removing bookcases, worktables and other nonessential equipment.
- Fix casters on furniture to limit mobility. This will help keep desks three feet apart.
- Use cleanable Plexiglas dividers or movable whiteboards to separate desks and teacher workstations while ensuring they do not disrupt ventilation returns or fire systems.
- Provide a hand sanitizing station in the classroom adjacent to the entrance.

Indoor Air Quality Management

- Engaged Occu-Tech, our Environmental Engineer, to perform air quality testing at all locations
 - Providing ionizers where testing indicates needed
 - Each holding room for possible Covid-19 cases will have a unit
 - Providing larger units in large spaces were needed
 - Will test throughout the year
- Engaged Control Systems Company to advise on air balance and fresh air flow
 - Modified system software to allow for changes to airflow demands
 - Increased fresh air coming into all buildings
 - Increased filter grades to Merv-10 or above
 - Will double typical filter rotation/replacement
 - Flushing building air at night where needed
- Engaged Occu-Tech to perform water quality testing due to closure of sites for six months
 - Traps and blocks 98% of airborne particles



Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Installed hand sanitizer dispensers throughout buildings and in classrooms
- Changes in cleaning process during the year
- Adding a Clorox 360 machine at all buildings for daily sanitizing
- Providing additional waste cans to allow for classroom removal throughout the day
- Increasing cafeteria clean rotation during the day
- Increasing restroom clean rotation during the day
- Increasing hallway touch cleaning during the day (door knobs, hand rails, etc.)
- Increasing high touch area cleaning in classrooms during day and at night
- Adding cover suits and safety glasses in the event a room is closed and cleaned for Covid-19
- Adding online system to request needed cleaning and PPE supplies

Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

Athletics and in-person extracurricular activities in Kansas City Public Schools will follow limitations for practices and games through guidelines created by the district and in compliance with MSHSAA.

Athletics is currently:

- Providing safe environments for student-athletes by putting protocol in place for all students, coaches, workers involved with practice/games
- Operating with limitations to fans/spectators but still allow games to occur for the mental, social, and emotional well-being of KCPS students
- Expanding opportunities to families and fans to watch games online by live streaming events

Keeping Students and Staff Safe

- All students must take a KCPS-administered COVID-19 test and have a negative result before being allowed to participate in any athletics or extracurricular activities.
- All student-athletes, coaches, and employees are screened daily with temperature checks, series of questions answered, and contact information is given for tracing purposes.
- All coaches and workers must wear masks at all times. Student-athletes should wear a mask when not engaged in physical activity.
- Practice social distancing protocol guidelines provided by the city health department.
- KCPS is purchasing individual masks, water bottles, and towels given to each student athlete with school logo. Additionally, masks are provided to coaching staff.
- Requirement for all coaches to e-sign COVID protocol document
- Working with custodial staff for deep cleaning in areas used by student-athletes

Additional Safety Steps

- Games are limited for essential personnel only: athletes, coaches, game crew, essential media. No spectators are allowed.
- Visiting team is screened prior to arrival on a KCPS site
- Limiting numbers and time spent in locker room settings
- Traveling in small groups for transportation purposes when possible
- Cancelling and/or rescheduling if there are COVID safety concerns for either team
- Adjustments moving into winter sports

- Addition of cheer and dance teams to be present at games/events
- Expansion of games being live streamed and/or posted online for viewers to enjoy

KCPS District Athletic Office Covid-19 Contest Guidelines

1. Screening

The District Athletic office requires that all KCPS athletes, staff, and personnel be screened (including temperature, a series of questions, and sign-in sheets) prior to engaging in any contest. Visiting teams will be required to provide their own screening process (including sign-in sheet upon request) prior to arrival.

2. Suspension of Teams/Programs/Individuals

KCPS recommends schools to continue to follow local health department recommendations for positive tests and contact tracing to determine if further action needs to be taken within teams/programs/individuals.

- Schools are required to contact local health departments when they have a positive test. The local health departments will give guidance on how that team/program should proceed. Should further restrictions be put in place specific to KCPS those guidelines should be followed.
- Based on health department recommendations, team/programs/individuals may need to quarantine for 14 days.
- Schools should notify opponents as soon as possible of a positive test and how the program is proceeding regarding competition.
- Low risk sports, as identified by the NFHS, may not need to be suspended. This includes cross country (staggered starts), and swimming.

3. Masks

The District Athletic office requires masks for athletes when not engaged in physical activity (sideline, breaks). It is MANDATED that masks be worn by ALL KCPS affiliated parties and visiting opponents. Active participants on the field/court are not required to have a mask on while being active (players, officials).

Opponents may have additional restrictions but as a KCPS school, requirements for masks shall remain the same, home and away contests. Visiting schools will be required to follow KCPS guidelines when coming to a KCPS facility.

MSHSAA Recommendations: "Masks or face coverings are REQUIRED for participants, coaches/directors and officials/adjudicators any time they are not doing strenuous physical activity. Wearing masks before activities and immediately following activities is REQUIRED, especially prior to screening." MSHSAA also suggests that masks could prevent anyone other than the infected individual from having to be excluded from participation. "If a coach/director or participant is positive and was wearing a mask or face covering, it is possible that none of their contacts will have to be excluded from participation. In some cases, a mask or face covering may not be considered protective depending on the type of exposure."

4. Locker Rooms

The District Athletic office will allow locker room access to both home and away visitors. We ask visiting teams to come dressed prior to arrival and limit time in locker room/bathroom facilities. This is to limit the opportunities for contact within schools and promote social distance. Special considerations will be made for opponents traveling from a distance. Water will be provided on the sideline, but we ask that teams designate one individual to fill up all water bottles/cups.

5. Small Groups

The District Athletic office recommends teams/programs to practice and travel in as small groups as possible. This may allow different levels of teams to continue to compete while others may be suspended due to COVID (C-team,



Junior Varsity, Varsity). **All KCPS students and employees must always wear a mask on bus trips as mandated by STA.**

The District Athletic recommends that schools emphasize small groups in the locker room and other indoor areas to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

6. Post-Game Handshakes

- The District Athletic office asks schools abstain from post-game handshakes until further notice.
- Schools may develop ways to acknowledge the other school in a sportsmanlike manner following a contest following social distance protocol.

7. Spectators and Mass Gatherings at KCPS Events

- The District Athletic office will allow spectators at events.
- Spectators will be required to wear a mask while on KCPS property and social distance (6 feet).
- Due to social distancing guidelines, KCPS reserves the right to limit the number of spectators.

8. Concessions, Spectators

KCPS will not have concessions during Spring 2021 events. Spectators and athletes will be allowed to bring in sealed drinks and prepackaged and unopened snacks or food.

MSHSAA Tier Approach

- Tier 1 – Essential game personnel
- Tier 2 – Media – schools should prioritize Tier 1 and Tier 2 personnel.
- Tier 3 – Spectators

Currently, KCPS is designated Tier 3. Any media must be approved by the District Athletic office and abide by all KCPS regulations.

9. Cancellations and Reschedules

The KCPS District Athletic office will work to reschedule games due to Covid-19 cancellations. It is not guaranteed that all contests can be rescheduled on a later date or with the same opponent.

- MSHSAA decision is the following:
- If a team is unable to play the contest safely due to a Covid-19. The contest will be a non-game.
- If a team can safely compete and has followed all local guidance for contact tracing, but the opposing team chooses not to play the game, it will be considered a forfeit for the opposing team.
- b. MSHSAA has stated that a Covid-19 cancellation in the playoffs would be a forfeit.

Further Information regarding KCPS's Reopening Plans and Response to COVID-19

For further information on KCPS's reopening plans and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please go to the Kansas City Public Schools' Homepage at kcpublicschools.org and click on "Reopening KCPS." Questions and concerns may also be directed to KCPS COVID-19 Response Coordinator Sara Williams at covidcoordinator@kcpublicschools.org.