

**McCreary County Schools**  
**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**  
**COVID-19 School Operations Plan**  
**2021-2022 School Year**

**(Approved at the September 15, 2021 Special-Called Meeting  
of the McCreary County Board of Education)**

**Introduction**

The McCreary County School District has crafted this plan taking into consideration current guidelines set forth by Kentucky Public Health and the Kentucky Department of Education, including the document published by Kentucky Public Health “Guidance for K-12 School Operations for In-Person Learning, August 27, 2021.”

The McCreary County Board of Education and district leadership are dedicated to the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families. We also want our students to be successful and will work to provide them the very best possible educational experiences.

Our goal is to provide the least restrictive learning environment possible while keeping our students, staff and community safe. Understanding that it is possible that conditions and circumstances may change during the school year, we acknowledge that this plan may have to change.

**Masks**

- Per guidance from our local health department, Kentucky Public Health, the CDC, and the Kentucky Department of Education, and based on current conditions in our county, universal masking is required for all persons in our schools and indoor facilities whenever students are present.
- On school buses, masks are required for all persons.
- Universal indoor masking requirement will remain in place until October 31, 2021 and will be reevaluated no later than October 25, 2021.
- There could be adjustments made to masking expectations based on changing COVID-19 incidence rates, updated guidance from health or education officials, or other unforeseen factors.
- Medical exemptions will be considered when supported by documentation from a medical provider on the form provided by the school district. In those cases, an alternative form of PPE will be considered. Also, a student’s IEP will also be followed in relation to this.

## **Test to Stay**

The Superintendent and District Health Coordinator will collaborate with our local health department to develop and implement a “test to stay” plan to safely reduce the number of quarantines in our schools and maximize the amount of in-person learning for our students.

## **Physical Distancing and Contact Tracing**

- Classroom seating will be organized to have students at least three feet apart when possible. If this is not possible, seating will be organized to maximize space between students.
- Cafeteria seating will be organized to maximize distance between students.
- When possible students will face in the same direction. This could be a challenge in some settings.
- Seating charts for classrooms, cafeteria and buses will be developed, followed and checked.
- If it is possible and practical, students will remain in assigned groups/pods.
- Staff members should remain physically distanced from one another, at least six feet.
- Buses will be loaded back to front and unloaded front to back.
- Signage will be utilized to remind staff and students to stay at least 3-6 feet apart.
- Visitors to schools will be screened and limited.
- McCreary County Schools will conduct contact tracing for staff and student exposures at school.
- There could be adjustments to physical distancing expectations if incidence levels of COVID-19 change in the community and/or schools.

## **Screening and Isolation**

- Students and staff should stay home if they are having fever (100.4 degrees F or higher) and/or have COVID-19 symptoms including
  - Fever or feeling feverish (e.g. chills, sweating)
  - New cough
  - Difficulty Breathing
  - Sore throat
  - Muscle aches or body aches
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - New loss of taste or smell
- We encourage parents to screen their children for fever and symptoms. Staff members are asked to self-screen.
- Students who exhibit one or more symptoms at school will be isolated until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Sick persons are encouraged to go to a health care provider to be tested for COVID-19. They may return to school with a negative test result or when their symptoms resolve. Sick students and staff who are not tested for COVID-19 may return to school when their symptoms resolve.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should follow guidance from the local health department as to when it is safe for them to be around others.

### **Other Preventative Measures**

- Hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) will be available in classrooms, buses, cafeteria, and other places throughout the building.
- Signage will be posted that encourages proper hand and respiratory hygiene (hand washing frequency and technique, covering coughs and sneezes).
- Cleaning protocols have been established and checklists have been developed.
- In the cafeteria, there will be no “self-service,” if deemed necessary.
- Facility ventilation will be geared to increase outdoor air circulation and increase delivery of clean air.
- Explore COVID-19 Testing Programs

### **Instruction**

- Students will attend in-person classes five days per week (Monday – Friday). This is the strong preference and our hope is to continue the entire school year under this format. A virtual option was offered to our students. There were a number of criteria in order to become and remain a virtual student. The Board of Education reserves the right to end virtual learning as an option at its discretion.
- Per Senate Bill 1, students may be temporarily assigned to remote learning by the superintendent.
- To ensure continuity of services, each student was issued a Chromebook. So, in the event that we have to transition to virtual learning, students will have the tools necessary to participate fully and be successful.

### **Athletics**

Expectations for athletics will be consistent with guidance from public health officials, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

### **Reporting**

Parents are required to inform the school within 24 hours if their child is diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or has been directed to quarantine by a medical professional and/or the local health department.