

# Mercer County Schools Pandemic Matrix

In the event of a Pandemic outbreak, Mercer County School staff will monitor recommendations from the Department of Public Health, Kentucky Dept. of Education, and the Center for Disease Control regarding best practices for preventing spread. We will remain in close contact with our Local Public Health Officials to assist in their monitoring of the spread within our community. We will use this information, in addition to the level of spread within the schools, to determine when we need to implement this plan, move between tiers, and if we need to implement additional processes or strategies to avoid and prevent spread. Mercer County Schools will communicate changes in intervention levels with all stakeholders as those decisions are made.

<b>TIER 1</b>	<p><b>Sick Students and Staff:</b> Please monitor your and/or your child’s health and wellness daily at home before coming to school, participating in school activities, or riding on a bus. If sick, please stay home until you are at least 24 hours symptom-free without fever-reducing medication, contact the school attendance clerk to make them aware of the child’s absence from school, and we encourage you to contact your child’s doctor or the Mercer Co. Nurse Practitioner to make an appointment.</p> <p><b>Mask/Face coverings</b> are recommended, but not required, for all individuals regardless of vaccination status while indoors. <b>Social Distance</b> is encouraged and will be implemented when possible. <b>Prevention Strategies:</b> Posters and visual markers will be displayed throughout campus about social distancing, good hygiene, and overall wellness checks and reminders to stay at home if sick. Teachers will provide age-appropriate instruction on healthy hygiene practices including proper hand-washing procedures, use of sanitizers, not touching eyes, nose, mouth, social distancing procedures, cough/sneeze covering etiquette, and safety practices near the cleaning products. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the building. <b>Cleaning and Sanitizing strategies:</b> Increased cleaning and disinfecting measures will be implemented.</p> <p><b>Nurse:</b> Schools will separate well and sick students. <b>Teachers, Coaches, Directors, Sponsors, and Bus drivers</b> will keep a daily attendance roster and have seating charts available upon request. <b>Attendance:</b> Contact the school attendance clerk for guidance if your child has COVID symptoms or is quarantined. <b>Outside groups</b> using the school facilities/grounds must have their own Pandemic plan. <b>Instructional delivery:</b> Teachers and students will need to be prepared to go virtual for Titan Learning Day (TLD) without notice. Students should take their Chromebooks home nightly. TLDs could be announced the morning of the closure. Teachers will post all lessons to Google classroom. <b>Mental Health:</b> School-level Mental Health Providers will continue to provide social-emotional lessons. <b>Test to Stay:</b> If available, staff and students will have the option to participate in the “Test to Stay” program. This program includes a random screening program as well as an option for those who are quarantined to stay in school as long as they test negative following the program’s procedures. Students/Staff participating in this option must wear a mask for the duration of the program. If students/staff develop symptoms or miss a day of school when they are scheduled to be tested, they will have to quarantine and not be able to participate in Test to Stay.</p>
<b>TIER 2</b>	<p><b>In addition to all strategies listed above, the following changes may be considered:</b></p> <p><b>Quarantined students:</b> Instruction, including special education services, will be provided to quarantined and isolated students through google classroom. <b>Masks/Face Coverings</b> may be required regardless of vaccination status while indoors. Masking requirements may be implemented for particular situations (ex: students participating in small group instruction), by specific grade levels, schools, or district-wide. <b>Increased Social Distancing Strategies as possible:</b> Ex: These may include arranging student seats in rows that are facing the same direction, increased spacing in hallways, limited the time in small groups, or requiring the use of masks while working together in small groups and utilizing cohorts or pods to create a stable group that has a fixed membership that stays together to decrease spread. <b>Information</b> will be shared with families to make them aware of the increase in illness. <b>Campus access</b> may be limited to only require visitors. <b>All events</b> including co-curricular, extracurricular programs, community events, gatherings, field trips, etc. will be reviewed by the School Principal or District Administrator to determine if they can meet these prevention strategies and if not, they will be rescheduled or canceled. <b>Increase cleaning/sanitizing</b> measures specifically in high touch areas. Bus drivers will sanitize the bus after each load.</p>
<b>TIER 3</b>	<p><b>Masks/Face Coverings</b> may be required for all individuals regardless of vaccination status while indoors. <b>In addition to all strategies listed above, prepare to implement the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential for the individual classroom, school, or district wide campus closures.</li> <li>● Titan Learning Day may be announced, or school may be canceled and made up on a later date.</li> <li>● During closures, increases in cleaning and disinfecting of the buildings and buses will occur during this time.</li> <li>● Parents/Guardians, we ask that you more closely monitor your child’s health and wellness and if they become symptomatic, please contact your family doctor or the Mercer Co. Nurse Practitioner for an appointment.</li> </ul>