

## **POWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS**

### **COVID-19 SCHOOL OPERATIONS PLAN**

**Updated 08/16/2022**

The Powell County Schools is committed to providing a quality education to our students while we work through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the past two school years, we put many things in place to keep our students and staff safe and we will be continuing many of these things as we move into the 2022-2023 school year. We will be monitoring COVID-19 numbers in our school and community and make decisions regarding changes we need to make at any time throughout the school year. We will also follow any required mandates that are in place and realize mandates can be put in place or removed at any given time.

#### **COVID TESTING**

The Powell County Board of Education will have at home tests available for parents who need them as long as the state continues to provide them. We also partner with Sterling Health for testing. We are currently exploring the possibility and legality of our school nurses performing COVID tests.

#### **MASKS**

Wearing of masks will be optional as we start the school year. Mask wearing is recommended for those who are unvaccinated or who have conditions that make them likely to contract COVID-19 or who are at risk of severe illness if they contract COVID-19. The superintendent will continue to monitor all data available to determine if mask wearing should be considered as a requirement and will discuss concerns with the Powell County Board of Education.

Everyone who is known to have had close contact to a person with COVID-19 should wear a well-fitting mask when around others for 10 days and is recommended to be tested 5 days or more after the exposure. Students or staff who had COVID and were required to isolate for a period of 5 days will be required to wear a mask upon return to school for 5 additional days.

This mask guideline will apply to all buildings and transportation both during school hours and after school hours for extra-curricular events.

#### **VACCINATIONS**

While there is a lot of science behind the COVID-19 vaccinations, being vaccinated is a personal choice for adults and for parents and guardians of our students. Everyone should consult with their family physician and make a choice that is right for their circumstances. COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available at our school to students age 5 and up as well as to staff and community members. Vaccines can be received at the Powell County Health Department and other locations throughout the county.

## **CONTACT TRACING and QUARANTINES**

The guidance from the Kentucky Public Health department and KDE regarding contact tracing and quarantine changed on March 4, 2022. According to this guidance, contact tracing following school exposures to COVID-19 is not expected. Additionally, quarantine is not routinely recommended following exposures to COVID-19 that occur in the school settings. Targeted use of quarantine may be recommended during outbreaks of COVID-19 in the classroom or school.

When COVID-19 exposures occur outside of the school setting, quarantine is not recommended for students who have completed their 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series, persons 18 years of age and older who are up to date with the recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, and persons who have documented COVID-19 illness in the 3 months prior to their exposure.

We ask that all families monitor their children for symptom and receive medical advice if COVID is suspected. We will not be sending home notification each time someone is positive in the school setting because contact tracing and quarantining is no longer required.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Masks are no longer required on school bus transportation. Buses will be cleaned regularly. If the Board of Education declares that all staff and students must wear masks due to a community or large school outbreak, masks will be required on buses as well.

## **INSTRUCTION**

Teachers will utilize the Google Classroom learning management system. They will post lessons in the Google Classroom to utilize throughout the year. Students who may go on quarantine or get ill will be able to complete their work from home.

## **CLEANING and DISINFECTING**

Schools and buses will be cleaned regularly and disinfected with a solution of Re-juv-nal Disinfectant.

## **ATHLETICS**

All restrictions from KHSAA have been lifted. We still follow KHSAA guidelines when a student athlete tests positive for COVID regarding return to play.