



NEWPORT
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS

A Great Tradition. A Great Future.

COVID - 19 Guidance Document

2022-2023 School Year

August 2022

Vaccinations:

Newport Independent Schools promote Covid-19 vaccines to increase the proportion of students, staff, and family members who are vaccinated within the community. We encourage vaccination of all vaccine eligible persons.

At this time vaccines are widely available at our local pharmacies and healthcare providers. Including but not limited to Walgreens, Kroger, Newport Drugs, Health Point and the Campbell County Health Department located on Monmouth Street.

Universal Masking:

At this time universal masking is not required. However, school officials continually monitor regional spread statistics. The decision to wear masks is made based on guidance from public health, the incidence and positivity rate of the community and state. As these factors change, school leadership will communicate updates with our school community. Those individuals who prefer to wear masks are certainly welcome to do so.

Transportation:

Currently, students are no longer required to wear masks on school transportation. TANK riders are also not required to wear masks at this time. Hand sanitizer will be available on each school bus operated by the district.

Physical & Social Distancing

Neither the CDC (Center for Disease Control) nor the KDE (Kentucky Department of Education) are recommending Social Distancing at this time.

Screening & Illness

Staff and/or students who do not feel well should stay home. Parents/guardians are encouraged to observe students in the morning for symptoms.

Symptoms of Covid-19:

- Fever (100.4 or greater) or feeling feverish, chills
- New cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Runny nose or congestion

If symptoms are observed at home, parent/guardian should keep their student home and contact the school nurse for guidance.

If a student develops symptoms at school, the student will be sent to the on-site nursing office for evaluation. Each school has an identified isolation area. Based on the nurse's evaluation, the student's primary guardian may be contacted via the telephone number provided to the school. If the primary guardian is unavailable the secondary contact, any emergency contacts, and potentially work numbers will be contacted to locate an adult. Students must be picked up from school within one hour from the time of the initial call.

If a staff member develops symptoms while at school regardless of vaccination status, they will be directed to the school nurse for evaluation.

Covid-19 Testing

Test results from outside lab-based testing centers, as well as home testing are acceptable. In the case of positive testing of staff, student or household member, please call your school nurse for guidance.

Through our partnership with Ethos Labs, Newport, KY, our school district offers CDC approved non-invasive Covid-19 testing at Newport Primary, Newport Intermediate, Newport High, and the School Based Health Center (SBHC). Covid-19 testing at Newport Independent is a voluntary program, supported by the state, at no cost to staff or students.

The KDE (Kentucky Department of Education) has made Covid-19 testing widely available through school systems. Covid-19 home testing kits for staff, students, and household members are now available through the Newport Independent Schools. Contact your school nurse to obtain home test kits.

Positive Testing or Exposure

School exposures no longer require quarantine or contact tracing for either vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals. School staff will notify guardians if a significant exposure occurs, and it is recommended to test 5-7 days after exposure.

If student/staff have tested positive and have symptoms: Isolate for 10 days from the date the symptoms began. If symptoms fully resolve, isolation may be shortened to 5 days with the requirement to wear a well-fitted mask for the remainder of the isolation period (full 10 days)

If student/staff have tested positive and have NO SYMPTOMS: isolate for 5 days from the positive test result and then wear a well-fitted mask for the remainder of the isolation period (full 10 days).

If student/staff has had close contact with a case (someone diagnosed with Covid-19): Monitor symptoms for 10 days from your last exposure. You do not need to quarantine if you do not have symptoms. Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days. Stay home and get tested if symptoms develop. Get a test 5 days or more after the exposure.

Test to Stay

Test to stay is discontinued at this time. See above recommendations.

School Building Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

Multiple hand sanitizing stations and dispensers are located throughout all schools. Handwashing is still the recommended best practice for stopping the spread of the virus. Students will receive instruction and reinforcement in proper handwashing.

Newport Independent will utilize frequent cleaning of schools and district buildings throughout the instructional day and evenings. These cleanings will include frequently touched surfaces, high traffic areas such as restrooms and hydration stations. Custodial staff are equipped with cleaning materials to address all surface types. Each teacher has also been provided with sanitizing and disinfecting materials.

Newport Independent has increased facility ventilation to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of air.

Food and Nutrition Services

Students enrolled in Newport Independent Schools are served breakfast and lunch at no charge through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Under the CEP provision, families no longer need to complete a Free or Reduced-Price Meal Application but are required to complete a Household Income Form (HIF). These forms provide the school district with information for other income-based funding, such as our Family Resource and Youth Services Center.

Food service is available to students who are quarantined. Families may request this service at the start of quarantine or may contact the school at any time during the out of school time period to submit a request.

Attendance

Newport Independent has resumed in person learning 5 days per week for students. It is imperative that guardians contact the school team as soon as any illness is identified to ensure the student has uninterrupted access to learning. The school's instructional team will collaborate with guardians and students to ensure learning opportunities are provided.

Students who must quarantine from school may miss valuable instruction. Students have the opportunity to earn attendance by participating in instruction via Google Classroom. Teachers post instructional videos, lessons, learning links, and assignments for students who are working from home that mimic the traditional school day. When students participate in learning their learning attendance is not impacted and the days do not count toward absent events.

Students who quarantine from school and choose not to participate, do not receive credit for the day and this is an absent event. The Healthy at School team will collaborate with the school instructional team to determine absent event type. If a child is ill and unable to participate in instruction there are options available to families to protect the student's attendance including home/hospital instruction at the advice of the child's medical provider or the potential for a nurse excused event.

Students with a positive Covid-19 diagnosis and symptomatic, and at the direction of the child's medical provider will be provided instructional services through the Home/Hospital Instructional Program by means of a virtual model when too ill to participate daily. Any student absent due to illness for consecutive days may be eligible for home/hospital instruction. Please reach out to your school if your child is going to miss multiple consecutive days.

Learning Plan

Students who are required to quarantine will be assisted by the school instructional team on an individual basis to determine a learning plan.

Newport Independent Schools utilize Google Classroom as a Learning Management System (LMS) in grades K-12. The Quarantined Continuation of Learning plan is implemented when students have been quarantined based on health or safety reasons. Schools are required to provide instruction and learning to students during this time to encompass the six-hour instructional/learning day. Students must have access to instruction, learning links, and assignments as they would during the normal school day setting.

Delivery shall include a variety of the following:

- Instructional videos (by teacher or reviewed online materials).
- Links to learning activities, videos, and materials needed for learning.
- Google Meet with teacher(s) for instruction, phone contact, or email contact.
- Usage of online digital approved programs (IXL, Lexia, USA Test-Prep, etc).

Documentation on file at the school shall include a variety of the following:

- Google Classroom assignment submission.
- Graded assignments.
- Log of student access in digital resources.
- Other: any format that shows student progress through learning targets for the time out of school, when combined, accounts for the instructional learning day.

Newport Independent offers virtual learning options for 5th - 12th grade students and families through the (NSOI) Newport School of Innovation. NSOI offers remedial, on grade level, and accelerated learning options. Newport High School also offers virtual learning for students in grades 7-12 who are interested in on-line learning. Those interested in learning more may contact Jennifer Stewart, Director of Pupil Personnel at 859-292-3001 or via email at Jennifer.Stewart@newport.kyschools.us. Newport Independent may utilize Non-Traditional Instruction based on guidance from public health, positivity rates within the community, and for the safety of students, families, and staff. District and school leadership will communicate this information to families, staff, and community as early as possible should the need arise.

Newport Independent's Covid-19 Guidance Plan should be considered a living document. Information contained within is subject to change throughout the school year. We will update the plan as guidance is received from the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky

Board of Education, Centers for Disease Control, KY Department of Public Health, and the Northern Kentucky Department of Public Health.

Common Terms

Exposure (close contact): Is defined as being within 6 feet of an infectious person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. The 6 feet rule applies to adult-to-adult exposure scenarios as well as adult-to-student exposure scenarios. Within the K-12 classroom, a 3-foot rule applies to student-to-student exposure scenarios as long as both students were masked.

Isolation: Applies to individuals, regardless of vaccination status, with a positive Covid-19 diagnosis OR that are displaying symptoms that *could be* consistent with Covid-19 infection.

Quarantine: Applies to individuals that are identified as exposed to a person with a positive Covid-19 diagnosis.

Case: Refers to a person who is positively diagnosed as having Covid-19.