A NEW WAY FORWARD
Back-to-School Plans
All of the following criteria will be considered:

- Guidance from state and local health officials
- Jefferson County COVID-19 data
- Vaccinations for JCPS employees
- Review quarantine/health data
### Guidelines for Kentucky Schools’ Learning Models

**Date Issued: Dec. 14, 2020**

**COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREEN</th>
<th>YELLOW</th>
<th>ORANGE</th>
<th>RED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimal Community Transmission</strong>&lt;br&gt;“On Track”&lt;br&gt;≤ 1 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY&lt;br&gt;In Person or Remote Learning</td>
<td><strong>Increased Community Transmission</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Community Spread”&lt;br&gt;1-10 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY&lt;br&gt;In Person or Remote Learning</td>
<td><strong>Heightened Community Transmission</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Accelerated”&lt;br&gt;10-25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY&lt;br&gt;Hybrid or Remote Learning</td>
<td><strong>Substantial Community Transmission</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Critical”&lt;br&gt;≥25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY&lt;br&gt;More Aggressive Hybrid; Consider Remote Learning</td>
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- **GREEN**
  - Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12).
  - Encourage small group cohorts in classrooms for in-person instruction to reduce transmission.
  - Cancel field trips/ assemblies or other large group activities.
  - Adhere to Governor’s current guidance regarding group gatherings.
  - Encourage the school community to actively continue COVID-19 safety guidelines.
  - Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities who are not from the local geographic area, e.g., community, town, city, county.
  - At any level, if an outbreak is determined by the LHD, guidance may be provided to close a classroom or individual school.
  - Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance.

- **YELLOW**
  - Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12).
  - Encourage small student cohorts in classrooms for in-person instruction to reduce transmission.
  - Cancel field trips/ assemblies or other large group activities.
  - Adhere to Governor’s current guidance regarding group gatherings.
  - Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders will coordinate additional mitigation needed.
  - Address with school community need to actively engage in heightened safety precautions to prevent ongoing cases or school closure.
  - At any level if an outbreak is determined by the LHD, guidance may be provided to close a classroom or individual school.
  - Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance.

- **ORANGE**
  - Assure highest level of best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12).
  - Consider implementing a hybrid learning model that reduces the volume of students and educators in school facilities.
  - Cancel field trips/ assemblies or other large group activities.
  - Adhere to Governor’s current guidance regarding group gatherings.
  - Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders should collaborate to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities.
  - Encourage school community to aggressively engage in safety precautions to prevent increase in cases resulting in school closure.
  - If the decision is made to move to remote learning, schools may bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services that supplement learning.
  - Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance.

- **RED**
  - All students and staff entering facility must practice best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12).
  - Implement more aggressive hybrid model to further reduce volume of students and educators in school facilities.
  - Consider suspension of in-person instruction until a lower level is achieved at a future weekly decision point.
  - If classes are suspended, activate remote learning for all learners.
  - If classes are suspended, continue special support services, including special education services and support.
  - Community-wide meetings are encouraged to fully engage all leaders and citizens to halt disease spread and return the community to Orange, Yellow, or Green Level at a future weekly checkpoint to maintain in-person learning.
  - Consistent with above, consider suspending school related athletic events.
  - Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance.
There is a set of common district safety guidelines:
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Social Distancing
- Screening, Exclusion, and Contact Tracing
- Cleaning and the Environment
- Riding the Bus
- School Visitors

Each school has developed specific plans for:
- Arrival and Dismissal
- Breakfast and Lunch
- Classrooms
- Common Areas
- Health Room/Isolation Room

Special Guidelines for:
- Special Education
- Early Childhood
The use of masks is required of all students and staff unless they have a medical waiver.

Students and staff should only lower their masks while actively eating or drinking.

Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own mask, or the district will provide one.

Other personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided for employees, including more specialized materials that support medical and health needs of students.
School teams are:

- Increasing space between seats.
- Removing nonessential furniture.
- Placing signs/markings/visual indicators on floors, doors, walls, etc.
- Reviewing and modifying processes to reduce the numbers of students in common areas.

If space will not allow students’ desks to be six feet apart, the school will space desks as far apart as possible.
● State guidelines say that children and staff should not come to school if they have a temperature of 100.4°F or above, new cough, vomiting, diarrhea, or a new rash.

● Students/Staff should also stay home from school if they have been in contact with someone who is diagnosed as currently having COVID-19.

● Temperature checks will be done as students and staff come into school.

● Parents/Guardians of bus riders must sign an affidavit to attest they will not send a child on the bus who has a temperature of 100.4°F or higher.
● Use disinfectants approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

● Implement a robust cleaning and disinfecting program to prevent transmitting viruses from surfaces to people.

● Use battery-powered sprayers that deliver the disinfectant as a mist to provide coverage in harder-to-reach areas.

● Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting high-contact surfaces.

● Provide classroom teachers access to disinfecting wipes.
• All students will be required to wear a mask unless there is a medical waiver.
• Students will use hand sanitizer upon entry.
• Kentucky Department of Education recommends windows to be open for air flow purposes when safe and weather permitting.

  • Students will be separated to the extent possible on the bus, but the school bus will be loaded without capacity limits.
  • There will be a designated seat at the front of the bus reserved for students who show signs of sickness.

Riding the Bus
Preparing to Reopen School Buildings

- Staff will be at depots to help students with social distancing while waiting to change buses. Drivers will clean their buses to prepare for the changing of students. Staff will then help with the student exchange procedures.
- Bus drivers will assign students to seats and keep a seating chart for contact tracing.
- Buses will be cleaned daily as well as between runs.

Riding the Bus
- KDE’s current guidance is to limit nonessential visitors to school property.
- Essential visitors should wear masks, which will be available for those who need one.
- KDE’s current guidance is to not schedule and to cancel field trips, assemblies, guest speakers, and other large group activities to avoid mixing students in large common areas.
Schools are creating the following detailed plans for arrival and dismissal with specific details for their facility that will be available to families and staff:

- Upon arrival, every student will be processed through temperature checks for screening/exclusion.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Temperature scans are not required before boarding the bus for dismissal.
- Students who have been identified with a fever during the school day will not be transported home on a bus.
Schools are creating the following detailed plans for breakfast and lunch with specific details for their facility that will be available to families and staff:

- Maintain social distancing.
- Assign seats for contact tracing.
- Reduce the number of students eating in the cafeteria (by using other available areas for eating).
- Offer multiple options for serving meals that may include the following:
  - Grab n’ Go Breakfast as students enter building
  - Kiosk meal service for lunches
Classroom teachers will be told which students have medical waivers on file that permit not wearing a mask.

A process will be established for ongoing distribution of PPE for staff/students who arrive without masks and throughout the day for those who need additional masks due to loss, soiling, etc.

- Signs will be posted to remind students that masks are required to be worn at all times unless students are actively eating or drinking (unless they have a medical waiver).
- Staff will be issued a clear plastic face shield.
• Social distancing will be enforced in all areas of the campus, including high-volume areas where congestion is likely to occur.

• Consistent messaging will be placed throughout the building/campus including entries/exits to follow social distancing, wear masks, and practice proper hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

• A recess schedule will be created that limits how many classes are on the playground at one time.
● An entry/exit plan for all employees will be established to maintain social distancing during employee temperature checks and sign-in procedures.
● Restrooms will be provided an adequate supply of liquid soap, paper towels, and toilet paper.
● Hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol or more will be available throughout the school.
● High-contact surfaces will be frequently cleaned throughout the school day.
Schools are creating the following detailed plans for health/isolation rooms with specific details for their facility that will be available to families and staff:

- A Health Room/Isolation Room will be designated to isolate students who are ill.
- Adequate health supplies and PPE will be available.
- Nurse Practitioners will be available via phone for telehealth assessments of students.
Students/Staff will be excluded from participating in school activities and sent home if any of the following occur:

- Temperature greater than 100.4°F
- Cough (or new cough with asthma)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New rash
- Exposure to a COVID-19 case during a 48-hour period before onset of symptoms until meeting criteria for discontinuing home isolation

Students with symptoms will be sent to the Health Room to await pick up.

Health officials will contact family with further information on COVID-19.

When a Student or Staff Member Is Sick
If a student or staff member is positive for COVID-19, district health staff will work with the Louisville Metro Health Department. If an individual is identified as a close contact, health officials will reach out to the family/employee if there is a need to quarantine.

Families with students in classes where there is a case of COVID-19 will be notified as soon as possible on the recommendations of public health officials.

The need for self-quarantine depends on many factors, including whether students/staff were wearing masks, how far apart they were, and how long and how close they were together. For those identified as a close contact to a case, the length of time for self-quarantine is usually up to 14 days.
People diagnosed with COVID-19 are usually out of school for 10 days beyond the start of symptoms or a positive test. That can vary depending on how sick someone is and other circumstances.

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school when the local health department or the student’s provider gives clearance documentation for the school record. A negative COVID-19 test is NOT required to return to school.

Families should remember to keep contact numbers current at school—this is vitally important if the school needs to reach you!
School staff and families will notify the individual designated as the “Healthy at School” officer if the employee or student has tested positive for COVID-19. The contact information will be available on each school’s website.

The “Healthy at School” officer will also be notified by school staff and families if the employee or a student has been exposed to COVID-19 and needs to quarantine.

Necessary paperwork and reporting will be completed by the “Healthy at School” officer.
• Staff will teach and model expectations using visual supports, social stories, verbal reminders, and picture boards, as needed.

• Schools will have specialized PPE to support ECE staff who are in close contact with students, particularly for toileting or other health supports.
  • Schools have been provided a plan for the safe handling/disinfecting of items such as wheelchairs, walkers, or devices that travel to and from school with students.

• Schools will ensure that any student with a disability that requires a medical waiver will receive appropriate accommodations.
- Schools will identify critical job functions and positions, and plan for alternative coverage by cross-training staff.
- Therapists and related service personnel will have access to specialized PPE to provide appropriate services to students.
- ECE has provided schools with recommendations of how to support students in all areas of disabilities.
- District ECE resource staff will continue to provide ongoing, live support for administrators, implementation coaches, and teachers throughout the year.
- Staff will communicate in multiple formats for ease of understanding (e.g., stories, pictures, practicing routines, etc.).
- Schools will remove any high-touch centers.
- Schools will limit the number and type of materials to those that can be easily cleaned/disinfected.
  - During nap time, cots/mats will be placed to support social distancing guidelines. Students will be placed head to toe to reduce the potential for viral spread.
  - Smaller mask sizes were purchased for Early Childhood and other younger students.
• Early Childhood bus monitors will conduct temperature checks at the bus stop in the presence of a responsible adult.

• Structured routines will be developed for socially distanced mask breaks for students.

• Consistent small group/buddy list of two to three students for all activities will be maintained for center rotations, desk-based activities, meals, and the playground.

• A seating chart will be created for circle time and naptime. Small group/buddies will be placed together.
VIRTUAL LEARNING
● Virtual Learning Option will be school-based.
● Gifted and Talented, ECE, Advanced Placement, and ESL supports will be available.
● Students will be able to participate in sports and extracurricular activities.
● Each JCPS school will offer both in-person classes and the Virtual Learning Option.

● Instruction will be delivered virtually by JCPS teachers.

● Google Classroom will be used as the instructional learning platform.

● Google Meets or Microsoft Teams will be used for live instruction.
• Savvas Realize will be the primary digital curriculum.
• Students will be permitted to complete courses started during NTI 2.0.
• Supplemental sources will be used for courses not supported by Savvas Realize curriculum, such as Advanced Placement courses.
• Food services will be offered for families who choose the Virtual Learning Option.
● Students must have access to a device and a stable internet connection. Schools will work with families to ensure access to the internet and a device for each student.

● Students who choose the Virtual Learning Option are recommended to remain in it through the conclusion of the semester to avoid further interruptions to learning.
LOGISTICS
Families are currently selecting either a virtual or in-person option.
Selections may be adjusted prior to the beginning of in-person school, if circumstances change.

As of 12/31/2020:
# of JCPS Students: 96,398
# of Responses: 83,698
41% Virtual Academy
59% In-Person
Both Virtual and In-Person students may participate in all extracurricular activities at their school in accordance with health guidelines.
Before the start of school, the Summer CEP programs will be moved for several days to give time for cleaning.

Those Summer CEP sites will be placed at four locations throughout the city.

Then CEP will move to a regular school year schedule with selected sites (ensure all students have access to a site).
Jefferson County Board of Education will:

- Receive updates on the return-to-school plan including progress of vaccinating employees
- Review the calendar
- Approve the return to school plan when data supports that decision

Next Steps