

# HEALTH GUIDANCE

## for Jefferson County Public Schools

### Operations Plan

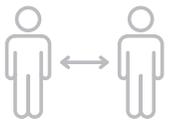
JULY 19, 2022

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of this document for Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) is to provide information on prevention strategies that help protect students and staff. The steps detailed in this document emphasize the implementation of plans to protect everyone on JCPS property.

Circumstances in the community involving the spread of COVID-19 will change and develop. This guidance is aligned with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and guidelines from the Kentucky Department of Public Health (KDPH). If there are changes to the community spread of this virus (e.g., a decrease in cases or a significant increase in cases across Jefferson County) or if new guidance is released, this plan could be revisited and potentially changed.

The JCPS plan is guided by our commitment to the following principles:



## Health and Safety

JCPS commits to doing everything possible to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and community. Every decision we make will be in accordance with guidelines for reopening schools and supporting public health from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), KDPH, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMDPHW), and CDC.



## Equity

JCPS commits to fostering an environment that supports the physical, emotional, and social health of our students, with a focus on removing barriers and building a system that equips all students with the tools to be successful.



## Accurate and Timely Communication

JCPS commits to ensuring that students, employees, and families have the information they need to remain safe. We will keep all stakeholders up to date with important information.



## High-Quality Instruction

JCPS commits to providing our students with high-quality instruction across all platforms, in-person and virtual, in order to ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and grow and to providing the necessary instructional supports for students with special needs.



## Community Trust

**JCPS commits** to building community trust through our actions. Every decision will be made with all stakeholders in mind; will be guided by the multifaceted best interests of students, employees, and families; and will be informed by the best available guidance from experts.



## Flexibility

JCPS commits to remaining flexible in these highly uncertain times. We will be ready to adapt to new public health circumstances in accordance with expert guidance in order to safeguard our students, staff, and community.

# INSTRUCTION

JCPS is committed to providing five-day-a-week, in-person instruction. Student access to in-person instruction and social-emotional support is essential. The safety measures outlined below are based on KDPH's and CDC guidance.

## 1. Vaccination

Provide information about access to the COVID-19 vaccine to staff, eligible students, and families by:

- Encouraging those in the JCPS community to get additional information about the vaccine from medical professionals.
- Health Services will work in collaboration with schools and departments to ensure access to vaccines.
- Working with local partners to offer vaccination to eligible students, staff, and family members during summer events as available.

## 2. Masks

- When Jefferson County is labeled "Low" or Medium" by the CDC **Community Level Map**, masks are optional, unless completing quarantine and isolation. When labeled "high," universal masking is required for everyone. (**Mask waivers** are still available for adults and students who qualify.) Masks will be available for students, employees, and visitors.

## 3. Physical Distancing

Students will not be excluded from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.

- **Physical distancing of at least 6 feet is recommended.**
  - Utilize assigned seating to the extent practicable.
  - Remove nonessential furniture to the extent practicable.
  - Utilize cohorts or pods when practicable.
  - Face desks the same direction when practicable.
  - Maximize physical distancing for unvaccinated persons who are eating meals indoors to the extent practicable.

## 4. Testing

- Any student or staff with proper consent may be tested by school health services staff.
- When available, At-Home tests will be provided to students and staff who choose to do weekly screening testing.
- When available, At Home tests will be provided to family members living in the household of COVID-positive students and staff.

### Test to Play:

Test to Play is a voluntary program for students who choose to participate in regular extracurricular/interscholastic activities. The program may be applied to **high-risk indoor** extracurricular activities during winter months.

## 5. Ventilation

JCPS will continue to improve facility ventilation to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air and increase delivery of clean air.

## 6. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

JCPS will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or the use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Ensure adequate supplies and opportunities for hand hygiene.

## 7. Isolation

Staff and students will be asked to stay at home if they are sick and/or if they have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19, including the following:

- 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
- Additional symptoms as defined by CDC

Direct sick persons to a healthcare provider to be tested, or the nurse assigned to a school can test for COVID-19 with parent/guardian consent. JCPS will instruct those who display symptoms to isolate at home.

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will self-isolate away from school/work site for five days after the start of their illness (or testing date). On day 6, those still experiencing symptoms should contact their school/work site to notify them and stay at home until fever-free for 24 hours.
- On day 6, if fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication) and symptoms are improving, students/staff should return to their school/work site and wear a well-fitting mask through day 10.

**Note: Employees must adhere to current legislation/district policy regarding Covid-19 absences.**

## 8. Quarantine and Contact Tracing

- Each school will have a designated Healthy @ School Officer. **The Healthy @ School Officer will work with District Health Services to facilitate contact tracing.**
  - A close contact is any person who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious.
  - Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts should be instructed to participate in the Test to Stay program whether the exposure occurred within or outside of the school setting.

## Test to Stay:

Test to Stay is a seven-day program that begins after the last exposure.

### To Participate:

- Students/Staff must be entirely asymptomatic for the full seven days.
- Upon initial notification of exposure, students/staff must be given a verified test.
- **If** the test is negative, students/staff should report to school/work site wearing a well-fitted mask.
- **If** the test is positive, students/staff should not be on school/work premises, and the school/supervisor and Health Services must be contacted.
- Students/staff must test daily while at school/work. The test must be negative in order to remain at school/work.

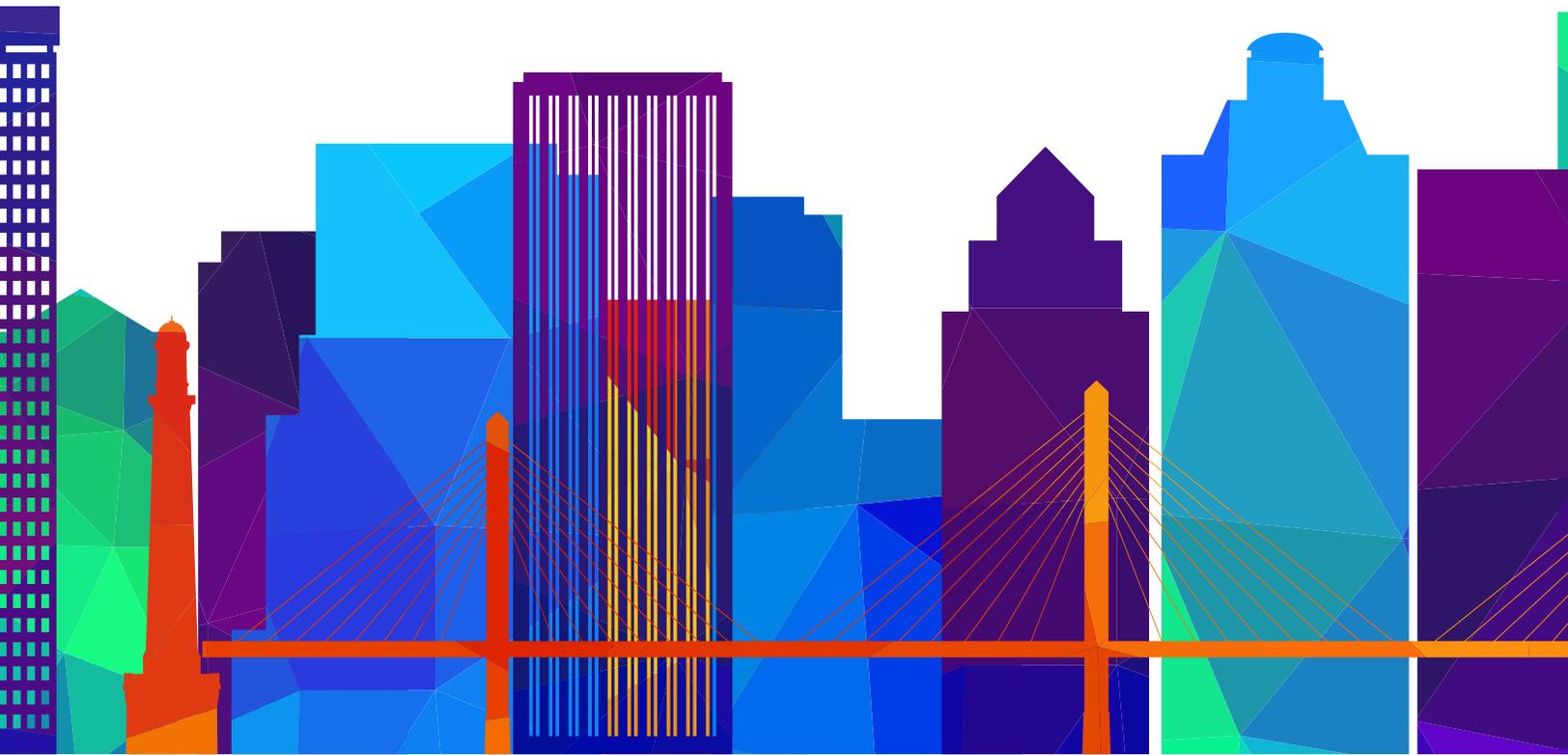
JCPS will continue to notify families and staff of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 at a district location. The public will have access to the number of cases at a school or district office by reviewing a dashboard that will be available on our website.

## 9. Cleaning and Disinfecting

JCPS will continue to **clean facilities** carefully. In general, cleaning once a day is enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. High-touch, shared surfaces may be cleaned more frequently.

### RACIAL EQUITY

JCPS will remain committed to Racial Equity. Ensuring that our students have access to the support that they need to be successful is essential. We know that the pandemic has affected Black and Brown communities disproportionately, and we want to respond in a way that nurtures and supports our students.



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