

Garrard County Schools Reopen Plan 2021-2022

**Garrard County Schools Reopen Plan 2021-2022
(July 30, 2021)**

Pending Final Board Approval on August 19, 2021

The Garrard County School System (GCS) believes that in-person learning is best for our students. For the 2021-22 school year, we are welcoming all students back to school buildings for five days a week of instruction. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school setting, while keeping the health, safety, and well-being of our school community a top priority.

GCS will continue to work with the Garrard County Health Department and abide by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing guidelines to prepare for its five-day return. We will continue to follow sound protocols aligned with expert health guidance to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the health of our students and staff. This plan has been put together with information that is currently available and will continue to be updated as additional information is provided from the Kentucky Department of Education and the Garrard County Health Department. A final decision by the board regarding masks and/or other protocols will be made no later than August 19, 2021.

- Students and staff will have the **OPTION** of wearing masks or face coverings at school and on district property. Parents/guardians of students, as well as staff members, have the choice of deciding whether to mask or unmask in Garrard County Schools. The choice is available to all parents/guardians on behalf of their child, and all staff members, regardless of vaccination status. GCS supports the **recommendation** of the CDC for people who are unvaccinated to wear masks while indoors.
 - Community health and safety data will be monitored and if COVID-19 positive cases increase inside a classroom, a campus, and/or across the district, decisions to require masks will be adjusted accordingly.

- Parents are asked to screen students before allowing them to leave for school and/or get on a bus. It is essential that parents understand the necessity of screening students for COVID symptoms before allowing them to attend school.
 - Students with a temperature 100.4 should remain home and parents should contact their child's school regarding the symptoms. Students should be symptom free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before being allowed to return to school.
 - GCS will collaborate with designated health officials to determine when a quarantined or positive tested student can return to school.
- Masks **WILL** be required on school busses for all students (preschool through 12th grade). This is required under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order.
- GCS will adhere to maintaining three feet of physical distancing where possible. This is not available in all settings due to the number of students, building space limitations and/or available staff/supervision. When distancing is not possible in a classroom setting, pods may be utilized as a means to limit exposures and/or quarantines. Classroom seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing and quarantines.
- Staff will continue to teach, reinforce, and practice handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use approved hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- The custodial staff will continue the COVID-19 custodial cleaning regimen in all schools.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the schools including entry/exit points and high traffic areas.
- Each school will continue to utilize water bottle filling stations for students and staff.
- All schools will continue to provide an isolation area for symptomatic staff/students. Symptomatic individuals will be required to mask while awaiting pickup of parent or guardian.
- GCS will continue to limit visitors to schools. Buildings will be open to essential personnel and essential direct access providers/vendors only.
- Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine in the event of a positive contact.

- The district will continue to work with local officials to monitor community transmission, school transmission, vaccination coverage and other factors that will guide any need to alter health protocols. Any change in protocols will be communicated as soon as possible for quick actions.
- GCS will immediately and appropriately comply with any federal, state or local mandates pertaining to COVID-19.

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