Garrard County Schools COVID-19 Plan 2021-2022

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.

- **Masking**:

    o The Garrard County Schools will continue to require masks in schools and school vehicles through December 31, 2021.
    o Masks are required on school busses and other district vehicles for all students (preschool through 12th grade) and adults. This is required under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order.
    o The Garrard County Board of Education will review the status of positive cases and quarantines during the December 16, 2021 Board of Education Meeting to determine adjustments to masking requirements

- 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.

    o **Students who have tested for COVID-19 should not return to school until a negative test result has been received.**
    o Students with a temperature of 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.
        o Students with other COVID-19 symptoms should remain at home. These symptoms include:

- chills, coughs, tiredness, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, loss of smell and/or taste.
- Students should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- GCS will collaborate with designated health officials to determine when a quarantined or positive tested student can return to school.

- Staff are to screen themselves before reporting to work.

  - Staff with a temperature of 100.4 should remain home.
  - Staff with other COVID-19 symptoms should remain at home. These symptoms include:
    - chills, coughs, tiredness, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, loss of smell and/or taste.
  - Staff should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to work.

- 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 & bus 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.

- 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.

Quarantine Protocols

In the K-12 indoor setting, students who are greater than 3 feet away from an infected student do not need to quarantine if both students were consistently wearing masks. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, other adults, or exposures outside of the classroom. (Kentucky Public Health, August 18, 2021)

Fully Vaccinated following an exposure
If you are **fully vaccinated**, you may not need to quarantine. If you are symptom free, it is recommended:
- be tested 3-5 days after exposure.
- wear a mask indoors in public settings for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result
- monitor for symptoms
- if you develop symptoms you should quarantine

Not Fully Vaccinated following an exposure and masked
If you are **not fully vaccinated**, but masked:
- see information included above from Kentucky Public Health

Not Fully Vaccinated following an exposure and not masked
If you are **not fully vaccinated**, stay home for:
- 10 days if you have no symptoms
- 7 days if you have no symptoms and test negative on or after day 5 of your quarantine

Positive for COVID-19 with Symptoms
If you are **positive for COVID-19 with Symptoms**:
- isolate for 10 days from the date the symptoms began

Positive for COVID-19 with no Symptoms
If you are **positive for COVID-19 with no Symptoms**:
- isolate for 10 days from the date of your test

Test-to-Stay

Currently under investigation. If added to the district plan, it will be added to this document.