



BALLARD COUNTY SCHOOLS COVID Guidance 2022-2023

**Ballard County Schools has a priority of having our students and staff at school safely.
Below are the mitigating strategies we have in place to achieve this goal.**

Safety Practices BEFORE students or staff arrive for the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do a daily self-check - If a student or staff member has any of the following, please do not come to school and determine if you should see a health care provider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever ○ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ○ New loss of taste or smell ○ Headache or congestion ● If you suspect you or your child have COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider regarding the need for COVID testing before returning to work. ● Be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Buses will be sanitized after each route and at the end of the day.
Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks are optional and all school-affiliated sites will be Mask Friendly - meaning your decision to mask or not will be respected. We will continue to monitor throughout the school year.
COVID Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A student or staff member who tests positive should isolate at home for 5 days after onset of symptoms. He/she may return to school/work location if fever-free and symptoms have improved on day 6, and wear a mask on days 6-10.
Direct Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The recommendation is to monitor yourself for any symptoms, follow CDC guidelines, and contact your healthcare provider for guidance as needed. ● If testing, the recommendation is to do so on Day 5 after exposure.
Cafeteria/Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breakfast and lunch are available free of charge at all schools for enrolled Ballard County students. ● Tables are to be sanitized after each group leaves.
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoor assemblies are acceptable at this time.
Choir/Band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Return to activities using general precautions. (Sanitize hands, do not share instruments, etc.)
Classroom Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sanitize desks at the end of each day. ● Special needs accommodations: gloves should be worn when changing briefs and feeding students.
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each school has a water fill station to utilize. Students are encouraged to bring clear, plastic, water bottles to fill. ● Water fountains are available and will be cleaned/sanitized throughout the day.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field trips are acceptable at this time.

Cleaning, Sanitation, and Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-touch areas and frequently used spaces, including restrooms, will be closely monitored and cleaned more frequently by custodial staff. • Frequent hand washing and hand sanitation will be taught and encouraged. • HVAC units will operate for longer time periods to improve ventilation and filtration. • HVAC filters will be monitored more frequently. • All buildings will be disinfected/misted on a regular basis.
Health Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with routine health needs should be separated/distanced from individuals presenting with fever, etc.
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms will have scheduled cleaning and disinfecting. • Students should be reminded to wash their hands (20 seconds or more) after using the restroom.
Handwashing/ Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be reminded to wash their hands (20 seconds or more) or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer after using the restroom, before eating, before and after outdoor play. • Students will be reminded to cough/sneeze into their elbow to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets. • Face masks will be available at each school for any student or staff member who requests one.
Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will adhere to KHSAA guidance.
Student Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kentucky Department of Education is returning to pre-pandemic attendance policies regarding student attendance. There is no longer a state approved excused absence for students relating to COVID-19. As with any other illness, COVID-19 related absences will require a medical or parent note. GOOD ATTENDANCE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
Employee Sick Leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 related absences will be treated as any other illness requiring the use of accumulated paid sick leave. See 702 KAR 1:191 – effective on May 3, 2022 – which provides for additional paid leave for school district employees who have either exhausted or are ineligible to use accumulated sick leave.
COVID 19 Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-home tests can be ordered for FREE at https://special.usps.com/testkits. At-home tests are also available at your school's front office while supplies last. • Ballard County Schools will not be participating in the optional "Test to Stay" program for staff or students at this time.
Masks/Hand Sanitizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks will be available upon request. • Hand sanitizer available in classrooms, bathrooms, and hallways.