

# Ballard County Schools

## COVID School Operations Plan for 2021-22

Ballard County Schools has developed this plan to implement health and safety precautions during the 2021-22 school year. Our main focus always is providing a safe and secure environment for all our students and staff members. We also believe that the best learning environment for students is in-person learning with live teachers.

BCS administrators have analyzed guidance from a number of sources - the Kentucky Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control, Kentucky Department of Health, and the Ballard County Health Department - to develop this plan. Administrators will continue to monitor health data in the community, as well as local and state guidance, so this plan could change at any time.

### **Safety Expectations MUST be implemented by schools as determined by the Kentucky Department of Public Health**

#### **1. Social Distancing:**

- Schools will make every attempt to increase space between students to 3 feet, when possible, through supervision and communication.
- Every possible attempt will be made at the school to reduce congestion in the classroom and in common areas.
- Buildings may limit visitors.

#### **2. Personal Protective Equipment and School Health Policies**

- We will use the Ballard County COVID Protocol to determine when masking is appropriate.
- All schools will encourage frequent hand-washing and good hand-cleaning hygiene.
- All schools will clean and disinfect surfaces frequently.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom and in high traffic areas.
- All families should screen their students for COVID-19 before sending them to school.
- Parents should make sure that students have no signs or symptoms of illness prior to sending them to school. Students with a fever of 100.4 or greater will not be allowed in school. In order to return to school, students should be fever-free for 24 hours with no medication.
- If a student or staff member displays at least one symptom (fever, chills, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new cough, new loss of taste or smell or gastrointestinal symptoms), as determined by our school nurse, the student or staff member must be isolated immediately. Parents will be called to pick up the student. Staff members will leave immediately. Those individuals or parent/guardians of those individuals with signs and symptoms will be encouraged to notify the health department or their health care provider for further guidance and possible testing for COVID-19.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine (see 4. Contact Tracing for more information).

#### **3. Sanitation and Environmental Standards**

- As always, proper hand washing and respiratory hygiene practices (covering coughs and sneezing into the elbow) will be taught and emphasized to students and staff members. Frequent use of hand sanitizer also will be encouraged throughout the school day.
- Daily cleaning and disinfection of school facilities will follow KDE and Kentucky Department of Public Health guidance.
- Cleaning, disinfecting, and PPE supplies that meet the safety and health needs of students and staff will be on hand daily.

#### **4. Contact Tracing**

- In collaboration with the Purchase District Health Department, continue to isolate students who develop symptoms at school, instruct on isolation guidelines for those who test positive for COVID-19, and contact trace/quarantine those who are in close contact with positive cases.

#### **5. Quarantine Guidelines**

- Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 will:
  - Isolate for 5 days.
  - After isolating for 5 days, individuals with no symptoms may return and wear a well-fitting mask (N95 recommended) for 5 full days.
  - If symptomatic or unable to mask after 5 days, the individual will isolate for an additional 5 days (days 6-10), returning on day 11.
- Individuals identified as direct contacts but who remain asymptomatic may choose to quarantine for 5 days **OR** Test to Stay for 5 days.
  - If quarantine is chosen, the individual will quarantine for 5 days and Test to Stay on day 6. If negative, the individual can stay at school.
  - If Test to Stay is chosen, the individual will Test to Stay for 5 days; daily negative tests are required to enter the school.
  - If the individual elects not to Test to Stay on day 6, nor to Test to Stay for 5 days, the individual will quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11 if there are no symptoms/fever at or over 100.4.
- Vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms.
- Individuals with documentation **from a health provider** stating the individual has been COVID-positive within the last 90 days are not required to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms.

The administration, faculty, and staff of Ballard County Schools are looking forward to the 2021-22 school year. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Leslee Davis, Director of Pupil Personnel, at 270-665-8400, ext. 2014. To view the complete guidance document, visit <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/K-12Guidance.pdf>.