

***WHITLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS***



***Making Great Things Happen!***

# COVID-19 Operations Plan

September 2021

## INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1 on September 9, 2021, during a Special Session called by Governor Andy Beshear. Senate Bill 1 requires all public school districts in the state of Kentucky to develop a COVID-19 Operations Plan. This plan addresses face mask requirements, quarantine procedures, Test to Stay, non-traditional instruction (NTI) days, and remote learning. The goal of the Kentucky General Assembly and the Whitley County School District is to prioritize in-person learning for all students in the safest manner possible during the Pandemic.

## FACE MASKS INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The use of face masks by all students and staff inside school buildings will be required at this time. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the most protection from COVID-19 while it is so prevalent in the Whitley County community. School district officials will evaluate the local conditions surrounding COVID-19 with *input from the Whitley County Health Department, Baptist Health – Corbin, and other local health professionals.*

## QUARANTINE

Students who are quarantined from school can participate in the “Test to Stay” program or in remote learning utilizing Google Classroom and other remote learning options. These students’ absences from school will be excused. Communication with a child’s school is vitally important to keeping in-person learning an option during the Pandemic.

## PROCEDURES

- When a face covering requirement is in effect, any close contact (within 3 feet of a positive case) will be notified, and quarantine options will be discussed. If symptoms develop during quarantine, he/she will need to work with his/her healthcare provider whether fully vaccinated or not.
- If face coverings are optional, any close contact (within 6 feet of a positive case) will be notified and required to quarantine following Whitley County Health Department guidelines from the last date of exposure.
  - Quarantine 7 days from exposure and remain symptom free, with a negative test **AFTER** day 5, may return on day 8.
  - Quarantine 10 days from exposure and may return if symptom free with no test.
  - Participate in the school district’s Test to Stay program.

## POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

### HOUSEHOLD POSITIVE CASE CONTACT

- Quarantine 7 days from exposure and remain symptom free, with a negative test **AFTER** day 5, may return on day 8.
- Quarantine 10 days from exposure and may return if symptom free with no test.
- Participate in the school district's Test to Stay program.

### SCHOOL BUS POSITIVE CASE CONTACT

- Quarantine 7 days from exposure and remain symptom free, with a negative test **AFTER** day 5, may return on day 8.
- Quarantine 10 days from exposure and may return if symptom free with no test.
- Participate in the school district's Test to Stay program.

### LUNCHROOM POSITIVE CASE CONTACT

- Quarantine 7 days from exposure and remain symptom free, with a negative test **AFTER** day 5, may return on day 8.
- Quarantine 10 days from exposure and may return if symptom free with no test.
- Participate in the school district's Test to Stay program.

### CLASSROOM POSITIVE CASE CONTACT

- Quarantine 7 days from exposure and remain symptom free, with a negative test **AFTER** day 5, may return on day 8.
- Quarantine 10 days from exposure and may return if symptom free with no test.
- Participate in the school district's Test to Stay program.

### EXTRACURRICULAR POSITIVE CASE CONTACT

- These exposures will be assessed based on the conditions (outdoor vs indoor, team bus, etc....) If the exposure is purely extracurricular activity based, the individual will have the following options:
  - Quarantine 7 days from exposure and remain symptom free, with a negative test **AFTER** day 5, may return on day 8.
  - Quarantine 10 days from exposure and may return if symptom free with no test.
  - Participate in the school district's Test to Stay program.
  - Masking and social distancing protocols should be followed as much as possible during extracurricular activities.

## TEST TO STAY PROGRAM

The school district is partnering with Family Health Care Associates to offer a voluntary Test to Stay Program for quarantined students and staff. Under this program, students and staff members who are quarantined will have the option of taking a rapid antigen COVID-19 test each morning to potentially eliminate the need to quarantine. Students and staff members testing negative will be able to attend school/work that day. The testing site will be at each student or staff member's individual school location. A parent/guardian will be responsible for bringing his/her child to the testing site and then to school for the day if he/she tests negative for the virus. Any student and/or employee testing positive for COVID-19 will need to go home and consult with his/her healthcare provider. This process will take place each day of the quarantine period (5 school days). The Test to Stay program is voluntary. Quarantined students and/or staff will still have the option of quarantining per Whitley County Health department guidelines if they prefer.

## NON-TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION (NTI) DAYS

The Kentucky General Assembly provides public school districts up to 10 NTI Days annually. NTI days can only be utilized when the district closes all schools in the district. Prior to the Pandemic, these days were reserved for weather related days. NTI Days can be utilized for COVID-19 related reasons if the district needs to close all schools. A decision about NTI will be communicated clearly to all students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members.

## REMOTE LEARNING DAYS

The Kentucky General Assembly is providing public school districts up to 20 remote learning days to be utilized during the 2021-22 school year. These are days where a district doesn't close all schools in the district. These days can be used when certain schools, classrooms, and/or grade levels are closed due to COVID-19. Students will utilize the Google Classroom platform to complete schoolwork and could be asked to participate in Zoom sessions with teachers and classmates on designated remote learning days.