



## HCS Reopening Plan July, 2020

### How will our students learn?

- **In-Person Learning:** Attend classes on campus in a regular classroom following a normal schedule with in-person teachers. Health and safety procedures will be enhanced and followed according to [Kentucky's Healthy at School Guidelines](#). This is our end goal.
- **Remote Learning:** Hopkins County Schools values the health and well-being of our students and their families. As a result, we have developed a Remote Learning Program for the 2020 – 2021 school year to provide families with an alternative to the traditional school setting. Families who have health concerns about COVID-19 can keep their student(s) enrolled in Hopkins County Schools by signing up for our Remote Learning Program.

The Remote Learning Program will allow students to receive instruction at home through a blended learning model using various virtual platforms. Each day, students will participate in six instructional hours through a combination of online learning and project-based learning while at home. Every student will be connected with a teacher who will provide direct instruction, assist with assignments, and be available for questions or concerns. [Hopkins County Schools Remote Learning Program FAQs](#)

- **#HCSatHome:** This program replaces the Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI), SKILLS Days, with higher levels of accountability and expectations for staff and students. Students participate virtually following the same calendar through online opportunities. Students will use digital platforms to support learning. This will be teacher-directed and monitored and will be used when emergency school closures are required due to health, safety, or weather restrictions.
- **Hybrid Model (A/B schedule):** This is a rotational schedule in which half of the students (A-K) would attend Monday and Tuesday and the other half (L-Z) on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday and the two days students weren't participating through in-person classes, instruction would be a blended model for students pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Hybrid Model is a blended learning design. There will be components of online learning, teacher-guided assignments, and project and performance based with assignments mirroring the other half of their class. Wednesday would be used for deep cleaning by custodial staff. This option would be considered if students were required to miss an extended number of days due to health restrictions. It would allow teachers and students to still participate in meaningful learning with fewer number of students in the buildings.

Students may change from in-person instruction to remote learning at any time. However, students can only change from remote learning to in-person learning at the beginning or end of a trimester. They should contact their counselor regarding any change.



### **Are there any drawbacks to these models?**

Childcare is an obstacle for #HCSatHome and the Hybrid Model. As a school system, we are asking our community, businesses, churches, and civic groups to partner alongside us to find ways to overcome this challenge through **Operation: Caring for Our Kids**.

With all plans, closures may occur suddenly with very short notice during the 2020-2021 school year. Closures could be district-wide or limited to classes, bus routes, specific schools, etc. due to health restrictions as deemed appropriate by state or local health officials. Parents should plan accordingly and be prepared for changes. #MakeaPlan

### **How will our students stay healthy and safe?**

Health and safety for our students and staff is our top priority. These procedures are based on federal, state, and local guidance. Strategies are in place to mitigate, educate, and minimize risks of spreading the virus.

- **Arrival/Dismissal:** Students will be instructed on proper protocols for arriving and departing from school and methods for taking temperatures. Procedures will vary from school-to-school based on the layout of the building and staffing. This includes loading and unloading of buses and car riders and walkers. Temperatures will be taken of all students, and anyone with a temperature over 100.4 will be sent to an isolation area with the school nurse. Parents will follow proper health checks of their children prior to sending to school. Students should not congregate and follow the guidance specified by the school. Schools will specify exact times of the campus opening for business.
- **Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities:** HCS will follow the Kentucky High School Athletic Association recommendations and will seek Board of Education and Hopkins County Health Department approval. As a school system we recognize the added value of extra-curricular activities for our students. Students enrolled in the Remote Learning option can make a written request to the principal to be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- **Breakfast/Lunch:** Schools will determine the best method for providing meals. Some may eat in their room or in a larger area to provide social distancing. Seating charts will be used for contact tracing as needed. All students, regardless of the instructional model selected, will be eligible for breakfast and lunch each day.

- Classroom Procedures: Classrooms will be cleaned in between classes. To assist with limiting the spread of the virus, students will follow CDC guidance on hand-washing, use of face coverings, social distancing, etc. Seating charts will be implemented and maintained as well. Creative seating will be utilized and unneeded furniture and debris will be removed to maximize distance between students.
- Face Coverings: Face coverings or masks will be worn when social distancing is not possible. This is expected of all students and staff. A minimum social distance of 6 feet apart will be followed. Face coverings should fit snugly and cover the nose and mouth. Staff are also expected to wear face coverings when appropriate.
- Recess/Mask Breaks: Students must wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer when leaving and returning to the classroom. Playground schedules will be adjusted to have a limited number of classes participating at the same time.
- Sanitation: Our Facilities Department and custodial staff take great pride in maintaining our schools. All custodial staff will receive specific training following CDC guidelines. High touch areas will be cleaned regularly, and water fountains will not be used. Teaching staff will also maintain areas in their classrooms and offices as well.
- Social & Emotional Wellness: A pre and post assessment will be utilized to assess students' needs. Our partnership with Mountain Comprehensive Care Center is vitally important for the support of our students' needs. Guidance counselors will offer additional supports as well. Any parent concerned regarding their students' mental health should contact the school or a mental health provider immediately.
- Staff Check-ins: Faculty and staff will follow a daily protocol prior to reporting to work. If a staff member does not meet the expected criteria, they will contact the school immediately and request a substitute. Employees are expected to model appropriate safety precautions as outlined by the CDC at all times.
- Staff Responsibilities & Duties: Daily schedules and duties are subject to change based on the immediate needs to keep our students and staff safe. Teamwork and flexibility are crucial through this pandemic.
- Transitions: Students should face the same direction in a single-file line when traveling through hallways. Students should wear masks when not six feet apart from other students. Hopkins County Schools will follow the practice of if you're "Moving You're Masking." Teachers will stagger class changes to maximize space as well.
- Transportation: Bus drivers will wear a face covering at all times on the bus and follow all guidelines for temperature checks prior to reporting for work. Buses will be sanitized after the morning run and evening runs and in between different routes. Families will sit together on the bus. The driver will assign seats and maintain a seating chart for contact tracing purposes. Students will load back to front. Hand sanitizer will be available and provided upon loading.

- Visitors & Volunteers: Visitors will not be allowed at the school without administrative approval. If there is a specific need and is approved, all guests must wear a mask and follow all temperature and health checks prior to entering.
- Water: Water fountains will not be used. However, students may provide their own water in a clear bottle. School will designate if there is a bottle filling station, which may be used while water fountains are unavailable. All students will be provided with a clear refillable water bottle.

## **What are the recommendations by the Hopkins County Health Department regarding COVID?**

On July 22, 2020, Denise Beach, Bernice Crook, and Amy Wortham led a panel discussion with all administrators in Hopkins County. The following are some of their comments:

- Masks protect others. Not wearing a mask can give COVID to others, and anyone not wearing a mask should register for online learning.
- Out-of-state travel, funerals, family gatherings, weddings, etc. are causing an increase in outbreaks.
- The Health Department does not make corporate decisions about out-of-state quarantine. They only get involved when there's an issue.
- Pulse oximeters will be available in every building to check changes in oxygen levels.
- Diabetics and people with respiratory issues are at greater risk for contracting the virus.
- Students must wear masks on the bus.
- Temperatures must be taken at school of all employees and students.
- The Health Department will handle all contact tracing.
- It's important for schools to get nurse consents back as soon as possible.
- There will be a special consent for COVID testing.
- Each school must work with their nurse to determine a location for the isolation room.
- If a student tests positive, parents will be notified of the results not the student.
- If someone tests positive, they, along with the list of people through contact tracing, will be isolated for 14 days. The 14 days will begin at the point you were in contact with the person testing positive.
- Students cannot return to school unless they are 72 hours fever and symptom free and 10 days after the first symptom.
- Any child with fever, sore throat, lack of smell/taste will be treated as COVID positive and sent home.
- If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or greater, staff should notify the nurse.
- Staff need to avoid commons areas such as the faculty work room, lounge, etc.
- If student tests positive in kindergarten, it's highly probable the students and staff in that class will be quarantined.
- Masks need to be worn at all times.
- Medically fragile children should wear a mask at all times.
- The Health Department will help us with individuals not wearing masks with medical waiver.
- Wipe down all highly touched areas on playground at the end of the day.
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing are critical.
- Wipe off library books

- The CTC is considered as industry and should follow those guidelines. Students and staff should mask-up and stay six feet apart.
- Schools should still partner with nurses and Health Department as in the past regarding other issues.
- Face shields do not protect you without a mask.
- FROM KDE, Quarantine vs. Isolation: If COVID positive, the person must be isolated for 10 days having no symptoms. If exposed to a COVID positive person, you must be quarantined for 14 days.

## What does HCS expect of students and staff regarding the wearing masks or face coverings?

- Students and staff must comply with all CDC, state, and local guidelines regarding the wearing of face coverings.
- Masks or face coverings should not be offensive to others and follow dress code guidelines outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Masks or face coverings should not prohibit students and/or staff from being identified.

## Documents:

Proposed email to be sent to faculty and staff:

*Good afternoon,*

*As you may know, Governor Beshear issued a Travel Advisory on July 20, 2020 for citizens traveling to states reporting a high number of COVID-19 cases. The advisory currently applies to travel to Puerto Rico and ten states that have a positive test rate of 15% or greater. Those ten states include:*

- *Alabama*
- *Arizona*
- *Florida*
- *Georgia*
- *Idaho*
- *Mississippi*
- *Nevada*
- *South Carolina*
- *Texas*
- *Wyoming*

*If you have traveled to these states or Puerto Rico recently, or have plans to travel to one of these locations, please be advised that upon return **you will be required to self-quarantine for 14-days prior to returning to work for the district.** Because this requirement is not pursuant to a federal, state, or local government order, this leave **IS NOT** covered by the federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. Depending on your position, you may be able to telework during this period with the approval of*

*your supervisor. If teleworking is not a possibility, you will either need to use vacation days or apply for leave without pay.*

*We do not recommend traveling to these locations if you are currently working, or within 14-days of the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. **Please note that this list may change to include other destination as positivity numbers continue to increase.***

Other documents are attached