

Henderson County Schools plans to return to school with all students (percentage) on Monday, March 22, 2021. Our plan is to return to a four-day per week schedule for the weeks of March 22 and March 29 in hopes of moving to a five-day a week schedule after Spring Break.

Our “Why” for moving to in-person four days per week, beginning March 22, 2021. Throughout this school year, we have put our students and staff safety first. Concurrently, we have prioritized student learning with the highest priority for student learning being in-person. We have and will continue to collaborate with our local hospital and Green River Health District. We continually monitor staff quarantines and community incident rate while being aware of holidays and etc., that may have accelerated numbers of mass gatherings and increased Covid-19 infections. We will continue to follow KDPH, KDE and CDC guidelines. We will continue these same processes and protocols as we move forward to increasing student attendance to all students who choose in-person learning to four days per week. Further, by March 22, 2021 all Henderson County Schools employees who chose to take the vaccine will have been vaccinated.

VACCINE DATA

As of February 22nd, we will have completed 17 clinics – 3 on our campus and 14 at Wal-Mart. Where we will have vaccinated 586 people through our vaccination program plus an additional 20 who were vaccinated elsewhere for a total of 606 people.

In March there will be 18 clinics (3 on campus; 15 at Wal-Mart) between March 3 – 22.

Of those vaccinated:

51% are certified

31% are classified

12% are substitutes, retired interventionists, paraprofessionals

6% are administrators (district and school leadership)

In total 47.4% of our full time staff have chosen to take the vaccine.


FAQ:

- Why are we waiting until March 22, when other surrounding school districts are returning sooner? By March 22, all of our staff that chose to take the vaccine will have

had both shots. Our staff has gone above and beyond this year, doing all we asked of them and more. I want to make sure that everyone who has chosen to take the vaccine has that opportunity before bringing students back four days per week.

• Why are we choosing four days per week instead of five days per week? As we begin the transition, there are many unknowns. One thing we could certify at this point for our staff is that we will have Wednesdays available for planning and deep cleaning. If it is determined after a couple weeks that we can go five days per week, then that decision will be made then.

• We know that we face some challenges regarding social distancing. Included below is information on page 7 of the [Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practice For Kentucky Schools, updated December 7, 2020](#).



Safety Expectations

Must be implemented by schools as determined by the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

- Stagger arrival and dismissal times.
- Increase space between students by rearranging seating to maximize space between students to be 6 feet or greater.
- If the physical space in the school does not allow for spacing students' desks 6 feet apart, space desks as far away as possible. All desks should be arranged so students' seats face the same directions. The use of cloth face masks is a safety expectation for all students and staff at all times, unless medically waived.
- Model creating space between students/staff and avoid unnecessary contact or movement within the personal space of 6 feet.
 - Place markings on floor as a reminder of areas that are 6 feet apart for instruction.
 - Maintain a social distance of 6 feet in hallways during arrival and dismissal.
 - Maintain a social distance of 6 feet in common areas such as bathrooms or create barriers between sinks/stalls.

Also we have had questions regarding ventilation. Please see Mr. Austill's explanation below of our plan for ventilation:

We are occupying the HVAC and Ventilation systems 2–3 hours before students and staff arrive. We have adjusted the outside air dampers. To increase the air changes per hour by approximately 1/3. Our equipment is only rated for MERV-8 filters. We are changing them quarterly or more often if needed. A higher MERV rated filter will cause some equipment to trip safeties or simply stop working.

For students who choose not to attend in-person, we will have open enrollment into our Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) beginning March 1. Our VLA has both synchronous and software driven programs available.

Virtual Learning Open Enrollment for the Term 4

When: March 1-5, 2021

Where: henderson.kyschools.us

(Open Enrollment will close at 6pm on Friday, March 5, 2021)

ONLY complete Open Enrollment If:

(1) The student is currently on VLA and wants to return to school.

OR

(2) The student is currently in person school (HYBRID OR NTI) and wants to move to 100% VIRTUAL LEARNING.

All students who complete Open Enrollment will start their new placement on the first day of Term 4 - March 15, 2021.

We are currently working with our teams and studying our reopening plans to see what can be modified to fit our current situation. Moving forward, we have one month for planning to prepare for our students' return to in-person learning. During the first part of this process, it is very important that we listen and get all pertinent questions answered. To do so Mrs. Sandefur has created this [March 22, Return To School Q&A Parking Lot](#). Please add questions as you receive them. Additionally, we have a Covid Communications Team that we will be reconvening. Lastly, I will be working with advisory groups of parents and staff to help form our plan to return to school.