

Estill County Schools Covid-19 Plan Outline

2021-2022

The goal of the Estill County School System is to move to a more “traditional” school year. The 2021-2022 plan maintains consistent, thorough sanitation of our classrooms, buses, and school environments. In the plan, face masks are optional for those vaccinated at this time (currently awaiting new or updated “Healthy at School” guidelines from KDE), but we will continue to follow KDE and KDPH guidelines for mask requirements, exposure and quarantining.

While the safety of our students and staff will be our top priority, it is important to note that some level of risk of infection will be present when attending schools. Should COVID-19 create a significant impact on the health and safety of our students and staff, ECSS will return to the previous more stringent “Covid 19 Guidelines and Protocols” used in the previous school year. This will be our “Emergency Action Plan” to increase infection and overall concern. We will be following “Healthy at School” guidelines when released from KDE and an updated protocol will be finalized. Below is the general outline of our plan:

A safe return to in-person school environments will require a culture of health and safety every step of the way, Specifically:

- **It is not one mitigation strategy, but a *combination* of all these strategies taken together that will substantially reduce the risk of transmission.** No single strategy can ever be perfect, but all strategies together will reduce risk. It will take collective continued vigilance toward health and safety measures to continue to contain COVID-19.
- **Staff must monitor themselves for symptoms daily and students, with the assistance of families, must also be monitored daily for symptoms.** Staff and students must stay home if feeling unwell. Everyone must do their part to protect others and not come to school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling sick.

- **Masks are among the most important single measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.** *****Currently awaiting further guidance from KDE for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Exceptions must be made for students with medical, behavioral, sensory or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. A medical waiver signed by a health professional will be required.
- Students no longer need to wear masks outside
- **Hand hygiene is critical.** Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival at school, before eating, using the restroom, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal and any other time deemed necessary.
- **Physical distance greatly reduces the risk of transmission.** As COVID-19 is transmitted primarily through respiratory droplets and direct contact, putting distance between yourself and others reduces risk. Current recommendations are to maintain 3 feet of distance when at all possible.
- **Cohorts/assigned seating.** Students organized in groups/classrooms and other cohorts mitigate the transmission of the virus whenever possible.

Monitoring Symptoms

- Per CDC, students, teachers and staff should stay home when they have signs of infection and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. [Again, currently awaiting further guidance from KDE and KDPH.]
- Schools will maintain isolation rooms for students/staff as needed.
- Health care team will keep in constant contact with the local health department and local health authorities for updates and information sharing.

Mitigating Opportunities for Vaccination

- Work with local health authorities to provide vaccination opportunities for staff and students, as well as continuing to provide updating information.

Adjustments to the mode of learning may be implemented on a classroom, grade-level, school, or system level if the COVID-19 spread level warrant. The Estill County School System will work diligently to provide the safest environment with the most up to date guidance and information to ensure the safety of all; while providing quality education.