***Garrard County Schools Mitigation Plan***

***2021-2022***

**Final Board Approval on August 19, 2021**

 The Garrard County School System (GCS) believes that in-person learning is best for our students. For the 2021-22 school year, we are welcoming all students back to school buildings for five days a week of instruction. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school setting, while keeping the health, safety, and well-being of our school community a top priority.

GCS will continue to work with the Garrard County Health Department and abide by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing guidelines to prepare for its five-day return. We will continue to follow sound protocols aligned with expert health guidance to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the health of our students and staff.  This plan has been put together with information that is currently available and will continue to be updated as additional information is provided from the Kentucky Department of Education and the Garrard County Health Department. A final decision by the board regarding masks and/or other protocols will be made no later than August 19, 2021.

* Students and staff will begin the year wearing masks or face coverings at school and on district property. Parents/guardians of students, approved visitors to school, as well as staff members, must wear masks in Garrard County Schools and in Garrard County vehicles.
* Once the Governor’s mask mandate and the KBE Emergency Regulation are removed, the Garrard County Schools will allow each individual to determine if they will wear a mask. Garrard County Schools will highly recommend masks for those not vaccinated.

* Parents are asked to screen students before allowing them to leave for school and/or get on a bus. It is essential that parents understand the necessity of screening students for COVID symptoms before allowing them to attend school.
* Students with a temperature 100.4 should remain home and parents should contact their child’s school regarding the symptoms.  Students should be symptom free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before being allowed to return to school.
* GCS will collaborate with designated health officials to determine when a quarantined or positive tested student can return to school.

* Masks are required on school busses and other district vehicles for all students (preschool through 12th grade) and adults. This is required under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order.
* GCS will adhere to maintaining three feet of physical distancing where possible. This is not available in all settings due to the number of students, building space limitations and/or available staff/supervision. When distancing is not possible in a classroom setting, pods may be utilized as a means to limit exposures and/or quarantines. Classroom & bus seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing and quarantines.
* Staff will continue to teach, reinforce, and practice handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use approved hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
* The custodial staff will continue the COVID-19 custodial cleaning regimen in all schools.
* Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the schools including entry/exit points and high traffic areas.
* Each school will continue to utilize water bottle filling stations for students and staff.
* All schools will continue to provide an isolation area for symptomatic staff/students. Symptomatic individuals will be required to mask while awaiting pickup of parent or guardian.
* GCS will continue to limit visitors to schools. Buildings will be open to essential personnel and essential direct access providers/vendors only.
* Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine in the event of a positive contact unless they become symptomatic.
* The district will continue to work with local officials to monitor community transmission, school transmission, vaccination coverage and other factors that will guide any need to alter health protocols. Any change in protocols will be communicated as soon as possible for quick actions.
* GCS will immediately and appropriately comply with any federal, state or local mandates pertaining to COVID-19.