

HEALTH GUIDANCE for Jefferson County Public Schools Operations Plan

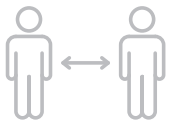
OCTOBER 5, 2021

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of this document for Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) is to provide information on prevention strategies that help protect students and staff and slow the spread of COVID-19 across our district. The steps detailed in this document emphasize the implementation of plans to protect everyone on JCPS property, including those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Circumstances in the community involving the spread of COVID-19 could change and develop. This guidance is aligned with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and guidelines from the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). If there are changes to the community spread of this virus (i.e., a decrease in cases or a significant increase in cases across Jefferson County) or if new guidance is released, this plan could be revisited and potentially changed.

The JCPS plan for returning to in-person instruction is guided by our commitment to the following principles to ensure safety.



Health and Safety

JCPS commits to doing everything possible to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and community. Every decision we make will be in accordance with guidelines for reopening schools and supporting public health from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), KDPH, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMDPHW), and CDC.



Equity

JCPS commits to fostering an environment that supports the physical, emotional, and social health of our students, with a focus on removing barriers and building a system that equips all students with the tools to be successful.



Accurate and Timely Communication

JCPS commits to ensuring that students, employees, and families have the information they need to remain safe. We will keep all stakeholders up to date with important information throughout the school year.



High-Quality Instruction

JCPS commits to providing our students with high-quality instruction across all platforms, in-person and virtual, in order to ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and grow and to providing the necessary instructional supports for students with special needs.



Community Trust

JCPS commits to building community trust through our actions. Every decision will be made with all stakeholders in mind; will be guided by the multifaceted best interests of students, employees, and families; and will be informed by the best available guidance from experts.



Flexibility

JCPS commits to remaining flexible in these highly uncertain times. We will be ready to adapt to new public health circumstances in accordance with expert guidance in order to safeguard our students, staff, and community.

INSTRUCTION

JCPS is committed to providing five-day-a-week, in-person instruction. Student access to in-person instruction and social-emotional support is essential. The safety measures outlined below are based on KDPH's guidance (July 14, 2021).

1. Vaccination

Provide information about access to the COVID-19 vaccine to staff, eligible students, and families by:

- Encouraging those in the JCPS community to get additional information about the vaccine from medical professionals.
- Hosting vaccinations clinics at schools.
- Working with local partners to offer vaccination to eligible students, staff, and family members during summer events.
- Providing information to families and staff about vaccinations and the availability in the community.
- Staff will either be fully vaccinated, or shall be required to undergo regular screening testing.

2. Masks

MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS WHILE INSIDE JCPS PROPERTY.

- **Masks are required on school buses** for all persons two years of age or older unless otherwise exempted. A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.
- **In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors**, though mask use may be considered in outdoor settings that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- **Mask waivers** are still available for adults and students who qualify.

3. Physical Distancing

Students will not be excluded from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.

- **Physical distancing of at least 3 feet is recommended between students** to the greatest extent practicable.
- **Physical distancing of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff and between unvaccinated teachers/staff.**
 - Utilize assigned seating.
 - Remove nonessential furniture to the extent practicable.
 - Utilize cohorts or pods when practicable.
 - Face desks the same direction when practicable.
 - Maximize physical distancing for unvaccinated persons who are eating meals indoors.

4. Screening Testing

JCPS will partner with a company/companies that specialize(s) in diagnostic screening testing in order to make **screening testing available to students and staff** to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Screening testing will be conducted approximately once a week with informed consent from the parent/guardian. A form will be included in the online forms that parents/guardians can sign and return if they choose for their child to participate. In general, fully vaccinated persons should be exempted from a screening testing program but may participate if they choose to.

5. Ventilation

JCPS will continue to improve facility ventilation to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air and increase delivery of clean air. Utilize outdoor spaces where possible.

6. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

JCPS will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or the use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Ensure adequate supplies and opportunities for hand hygiene. Review the handwashing [video](#) with students.

7. Isolation

Staff and students will be asked to stay at home if they are sick and/or if they have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19, including the following:

- Feeling feverish (e.g., chills, sweating)
- New cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Direct sick persons to a healthcare provider to be tested, or the nurse assigned to a school can test for COVID-19 with parent/guardian consent. JCPS will instruct those who display symptoms to isolate at home until they receive their test result.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will self-isolate away from school for ten days after the start of their illness (or testing date) or otherwise follow the direction of a medical professional.

Results for “at-home” COVID-19 tests should be confirmed with a medical professional. If an individual tests positive through an at-home test, that person should self-isolate immediately and follow up with a medical professional, including the school nurse.

8. Quarantine and Contact Tracing

- Each school will have a designated Healthy @ School Officer. **The Healthy @ School Officer will work with District Health Services to facilitate contact tracing.** The purpose of contact tracing is to identify individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to self-quarantine.
 - A close contact is an unvaccinated **adult** who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious even when wearing a mask.
 - A close contact is an unvaccinated **student** who was within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious even when wearing a mask.
 - **Fully-vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine** following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if not experiencing symptoms. Fully vaccinated person is defined as follows: >14 days have passed since receipt of the Janssen vaccine (J&J) or the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine
- People who have a verified positive test for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, and have recovered, do not need to quarantine if they have been exposed to another positive case, unless they are experiencing symptoms and have been ordered to quarantine by a medical professional.
- Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts should be instructed to self-quarantine regardless of whether the exposure occurred within or outside of the school setting. Quarantine may be discontinued when the local public health department determines that the individual is safe to be around others.

JCPS will continue to notify families and staff of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 at a district location. The public will have access to the number of cases at a school or district office by reviewing a dashboard that will be available on our website.

- **JCPS STAFF WILL COMPLETE THE DAILY HEALTH SCREENER.**

9. Cleaning and Disinfecting

JCPS will continue to **clean facilities** carefully. In general, cleaning once a day is enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. High-touch, shared surfaces may be cleaned more frequently.

ATHLETICS

Layered prevention strategies for school-sponsored **sports and extracurricular activities** should be implemented and continued from the 2020-21 school year based on guidance from the **Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA)**.

RACIAL EQUITY

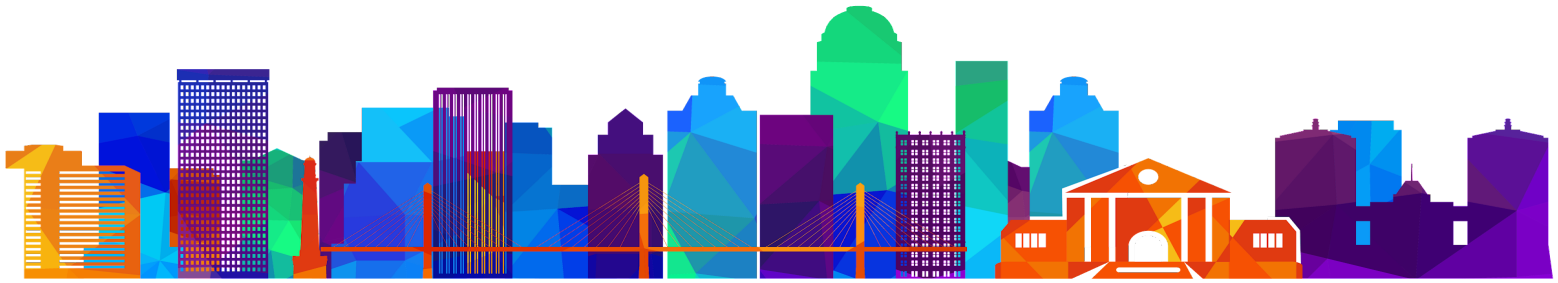
Throughout the reopening of schools this fall, JCPS will remain committed to Racial Equity. Ensuring that our students have access to the support that they need to be successful is essential. We know that the pandemic has affected Black and Brown communities disproportionately, and we want to respond in a way that nurtures and supports our students.

K-5 VIRTUAL OPTION

JCPS will offer elementary virtual instruction at the Pathfinder School of Innovation in addition to the sixth- through twelfth-grade program.

Students will have live instruction as well as self-guided assignments. To take part in this program, students will enroll at the Pathfinder School of Innovation and no longer will be enrolled at their current school assignment. This is a one-year program that would have to be renewed annually.

Appendix A



A NEW WAY FORWARD

Test to Stay Program

Schools are an essential part of community infrastructure and in-person instruction for PreK-12 students is a priority. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on an *optional* modified strategy for managing COVID-19 exposures in the school setting. [CDC guidelines](#) and the Kentucky Department of Public Health (8/2021) emphasize the implementation of layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, and staff, which includes isolation of persons who test positive for COVID-19, as well as tracing of their close contacts and quarantine of unvaccinated contacts. JCPS currently has a layered approach to COVID-19 mitigation, including a universal mask mandate and a voluntary testing program during the day and across the city after school hours.

This document, based on the Kentucky Department for Public Health document *Supplemental Guidance for a “Test to Stay” Modified Quarantine Plan* (September 15, 2021) outlines plans for a “Test to Stay” strategy to allow unvaccinated students and staff to continue with in-person instruction/work with repeated negative COVID-19 testing. Participation in this program will require the completion of the consent form for both students and employees. **Only individuals who are close contacts and ordered to be quarantined by a health professional would be eligible to participate in the Test to Stay Program. Those who have tested positive must remain isolated as instructed by a healthcare provider.**

Our goals for this voluntary program are:

- to ensure as many students and staff have in-person schooling/work as possible.
- to provide a safer learning environment for students and staff.

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- to minimize absences due to quarantining for students and staff
- to lessen the burden of quarantine on students and their families, teachers and school administrators
- to share data with the local health department

Participating in the Test to Stay Program

Based on guidance from the Kentucky Department for Public Health document *Supplemental Guidance for a “Test to Stay” Modified Quarantine Plan* (September 15, 2021), to be eligible for the voluntary Test to Stay program the individual must:

- be a student (PreK-12) or employee in JCPS.
- **be entirely asymptomatic**, without any signs or [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- **wear a mask indoors** when at school/work for the entirety of the program, even if all test results are negative.

A student/employee who lives with someone who is positive for COVID-19 and cannot quarantine away from the positive case is a risk for spreading COVID-19 according to CDC and, therefore, is not eligible for participation in the Test to Stay Program.

If a person has tested positive for COVID-19, they are not eligible for the Test to Stay program.

If an individual chooses **not** to participate in the Test to Stay Program, quarantining is still required. [Quarantine may be discontinued:](#)

- after day 7 if the individual is symptom-free and receives a negative COVID-19 test 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case; **or**
- after day 10 without testing if the individual is symptom-free; **or**
- when health providers determine the individual is safe to be around others.

Fully-vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if he/she is not experiencing symptoms, but are recommended to be tested 3-5 days after an exposure. If testing occurs at the school, follow the guidance outlined below. Fully vaccinated is defined as: 14 or more days have passed since receipt of the Janssen (J&J) vaccine or the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

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People who have a verified positive test for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, and have recovered, do not need to quarantine if they've been exposed to another positive case, unless they are experiencing symptoms and have been ordered to quarantine by a health professional.

Test to Stay Protocol

Persons who meet all the eligibility criteria for the Test to Stay program outlined above and who have chosen to participate should observe the following protocol.

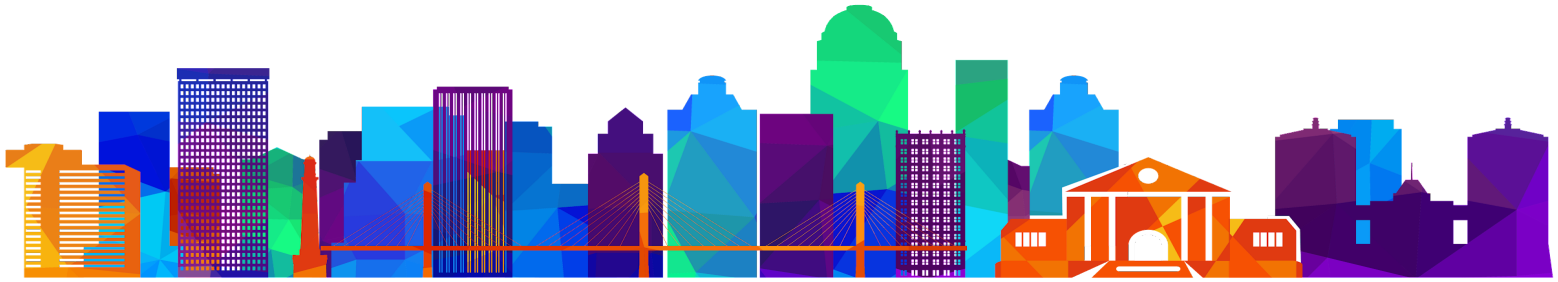
- Testing is required the night before a school/work day. For example, on a typical week, the student/employee would need to test Sunday through Thursday night to attend school/work the next day. Friday night is not required because students don't attend school on Saturday. Testing should be performed daily through Day 7 after an exposure. If day 7 is on a weekend or holiday, a test must be completed the day prior to the return to school. Quarantining can stop on Day 8 if all results are negative.
- Testing that will be conducted as a part of the Test to Stay program, will be offered at middle and high schools and other selected locations after school, free of charge. **Sites will be open Sunday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., or 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and others from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Times may be amended later based on needs. This is a separate program from the testing that happens during the school day.
- Testing must occur daily and the results will be made available to the student/employee the same day as the test. The school will be notified of student results and the employee will share results with the supervisor who will retain a copy.
- A negative result must be received before the individual attends school/work, participates in school activities, or rides the bus.
- A student or employee may also get a test from another medical source at their own expense. The test should be an FDA-approved rapid antigen test to identify [current SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) and be performed by a licensed healthcare provider or appropriately trained personnel. Students or employees

Appendix A

who get a test from another medical source must provide negative results to their school or work location before each school/work day.

- Testing is recommended to be performed a minimum of 24 hours apart.
- Schools will track the results using a district-provided portal specifically designed for the Test to Stay program.
- Individuals who are participating in the Test to Stay Program will have their results reviewed by the school/work site daily. Individuals who have been quarantined but have not completed daily testing or who have a positive test result, will be immediately sent home from the school or work location.

Appendix B



A NEW WAY FORWARD

Test to Play Program

This document, informed by the Kentucky Public Health Department document *Supplemental Guidance for a “Test to Stay” Modified Quarantine Plan* (September 15, 2021) outlines plans for a “Test to Play” strategy to allow students to continue with regular extracurricular/interscholastic athletics and other regular extracurricular activities with weekly negative COVID-19 testing. Participation in this program will require the completion of the parent/guardian COVID-19 diagnostic screening consent form.

Our goals for this program are:

- to ensure students participating in regular extracurricular/interscholastic athletics activities and other regular extracurricular activities have regular testing requirements to ensure that positive students are quarantined to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- to provide a safer environment for students and staff
- to share data with the local health department

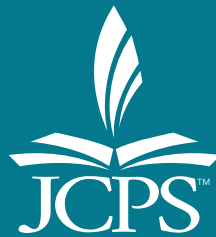
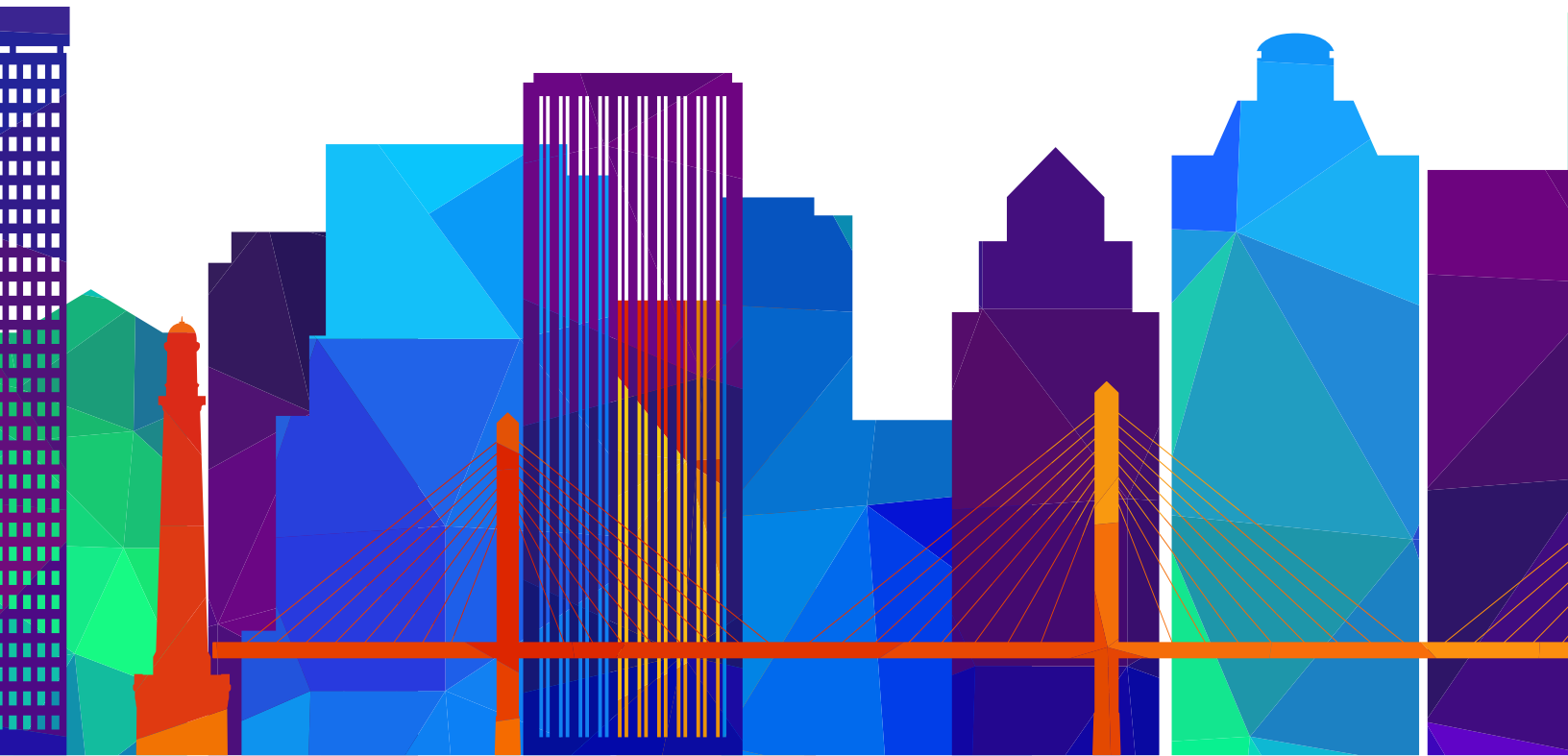
Test to Play Protocol

Students who choose to participate in regular extracurricular/interscholastic athletics activities and other regular extracurricular activities will observe the following protocol:

- Students will participate in weekly COVID-19 diagnostic screening testing at their school.

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- If students miss the day of regular testing at their school, they may attend testing that is offered daily at middle and high schools and other selected locations after school free of charge. **Sites will be open from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and others from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**
- COVID-19 diagnostic screening testing must occur weekly and the results will be made available to the student the same day as the test and the school will also be notified.
- A negative result must be received before the individual participates in regular extracurricular/interscholastic athletics activities and other regular extracurricular activities
- Students may also get a test from another medical source at their own expense. The test should be an FDA-approved rapid antigen test to identify [current SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) and be performed by a licensed healthcare provider or appropriately trained personnel. Students who get a test from another medical source must provide negative results to their school.
- Weekly COVID-19 diagnostic screening testing is required for participation in the above-mentioned activities. If a student receives a positive test result, they must remain quarantined at home in accordance with district quarantine protocols.



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