

**Spencer County Public Schools**

**COVID-19 Operations Plan**

The following operations plan will apply to the 2021-22 school year for all Spencer County Public School campuses.  The plan is subject to change by Gubernatorial or Presidential Executive Order, Legislative action, CDC and/or Health Department regulations, and/or KDE mandated changes.  If any of these become applicable, the plan will be modified accordingly.

Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff to the greatest extent possible. Spencer County Schools will continue to work collaboratively with state and local health and education officials to make informed decisions regarding the health and safety of our students, staff, families, and community. Incidence rates, recommendations from health professionals, and ongoing data analysis will determine the steps taken.

Steps taken will range from prevention and mitigation strategies discussed below, remote learning or non-traditional instruction models, and other strategies as needed upon the guidance of local, regional, and state education and health officials.

**General Precautions**

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| **Vaccination Efforts** | * Spencer County Schools will work closely with local health officials to provide collaborative opportunities for COVID-19 vaccines.
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| **Masking** | * Based on the most recent health data the wearing of masks is recommended in all schools. However, the decision to wear masks will ultimately be left up to parents and guardians.
* Due to Federal Transportation Guidelines masks will still be required on buses at all times.
* Masks will be provided by the district should anyone need one.
* Any student showing COVID related symptoms will be required to wear a mask once they are referred to the office and are in the designated area.
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| **Health Personnel**  | * Maintain availability of health personnel inside school campuses.  Protocols for screening for COVID-19 will be done and precautions taken as necessary.
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| **Physical Distancing** | * To the greatest extent possible, a minimum 3-feet social distance will be in place.
	+ Classrooms will be accommodated as much as can be reasonably expected.
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| **Contact Tracing / Quarantine Protocols** | * Continue isolations, contact tracing and quarantine protocols related to exposures within the home.
* Classroom rosters and seating charts will be kept and maintained for all classrooms and buses.
* Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine in the event of contact with a COVID positive individual unless they show COVID related symptoms.
* Spencer County Schools will implement a voluntary ‘test to stay’ process. Test to stay protocols will apply to extracurricular activities as well.
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| **+Temporary Remote Instruction** | * Spencer County Schools will utilize the temporary remote instruction days granted under SB1 to address COVID related issues in specific schools, grades, or classrooms.
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| **Cleaning / Sanitation** | * Maintain COVID-19 cleaning protocols put in place during the height of the pandemic.
* Busses will be cleaned and sanitized utilizing the appropriate cleaning measures as directed by the Director of Transportation, CDC, and North Central District Health Department.
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| **Handwashing / Respiratory Etiquette** | * Frequent hand-washing and hygiene practices will be practiced and encouraged
* Maintain wide availability of hand sanitizer.
* Sanitizer stations will be available throughout the schools.
* Classrooms and common areas are equipped with HVAC systems that provide proper ventilation.
* A portion of ESSER III will be earmarked to be used to improve the indoor air quality in buildings across the district
* Sharing materials among students will continue to be minimized.
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| **Field Trips** | * Field Trips will resume as necessary and maintain an instructional focus.
* Competition trips will resume as necessitated by scheduling/season.
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| **Building Access**  | * Visitors to the buildings will be limited to those that have an essential instructional/vendor function.
* Until further notice, visitors that come to have breakfast/lunch with students will not be permitted.
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| **Diagnostic Screening** | * Parents are requested 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 school regarding the symptoms.
	+ Students should be fever and symptom free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before being allowed to return to school.

*COVID SYMPTOMS:** Fever or feeling feverish (chills, sweating)
* Headache
	+ New cough
	+ Difficulty breathing
	+ Sore throat
	+ Muscle aches or body aches
	+ Vomiting/Diarrhea
	+ New loss of taste or smell
* Parents should report to the school, if their student tests positive for COVID or is a close contact of a positive individual within 24-hours.
* Spencer County Schools will encourage students, staff members, and other community members who are exhibiting symptoms to speak with their healthcare provider about their symptoms if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms.
* Appropriate signage will be prevalent in all buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors that if they exhibit any symptoms or believe they have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 that they speak with their healthcare provider before returning to the building.
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| **Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs** | * Spencer County Schools has counseling staff in each building as well as at the district level to address these needs. Additionally, the district has grant funding and staffing to address mental health and social emotional learning.
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| **Disclaimer -** This plan is subject to change based on guidance, recommendation, or requirement from the Kentucky Department of Public Health or North Central District Health Department. |