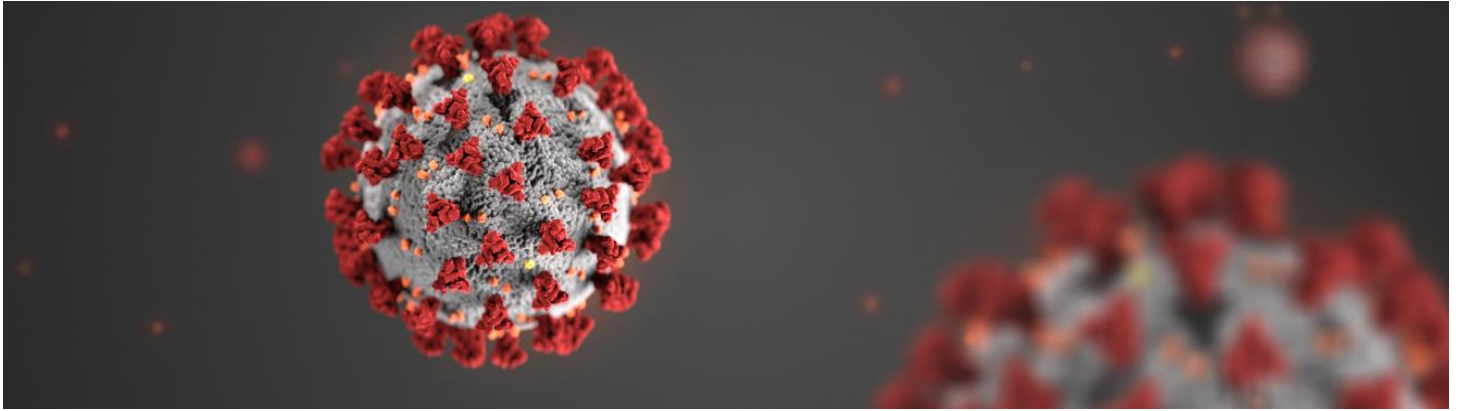


Harlan County Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity Plan

Monday, August 16, 2021



Center for Disease Control Photo

The administration, faculty and staff continue to work to prepare for the arrival of students for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Information contained in this document is compiled from recommendations and guidance issued by the Kentucky Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control

This document is presented with the most current recommendations from these agencies. It will be updated as new guidance is issued from these agencies.

We encourage you to contact administrators at your child's school if you have specific questions or concerns. You may also call our administrative team at the Central Administrative Office at 606-573-4330. Our receptionist will connect you with the team member who may best be able to answer your specific question.

Brent D. Roark, *Superintendent*
Harlan County Public Schools
251 Ball Park Road
Harlan, KY 40831

PARENTAL ASSURANCE FOR DAILY STUDENT HEALTH ASSESSMENT

2021-2022 School Year

Parents/guardians should do a morning checklist before sending their child out the door to the bus stop or bringing them to school:

- Temperature check- if temperature is 100.4 or greater, keep your child home. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- New cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- GI symptoms: vomiting and/or diarrhea
- New rash
- Known exposure to a COVID-19 case during the prior 48-hour period.

If any of these symptoms are present prior to the start of the school day, I assure the Harlan County Public School District that my child will not attend school on that day. I will notify the school of my child's absence and the symptoms my child is exhibiting.

If my child develops any of these symptoms during the school day, I assure the district that I, or my designee, will pick up my child as soon as possible. Should efforts to reach a parent or guardian fail, emergency medical services will be contacted.

I also understand my child may be held in the designated isolation area at the school to avoid possible spread of illness to other students and staff. I understand that I will be immediately notified by school staff when this occurs.

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print/Sign Send Copy to School

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Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print/Sign & Keep A Copy at Home for Future Reference

BUS SAFETY

To make bus transportation as safe as possible, all students, bus drivers and staff must wear a mask while on the bus unless a documented medical issue from a physician is readily available.

This requirement is for all persons two years of age or older. A driver does not need to wear a mask if the only person on the bus.

Hand Sanitizer must be used as children board their bus.

Every bus driver will maintain a seating chart to assist with contact tracing throughout the year. Each student will have assigned seats and will be responsible to sit in their assigned seat for both morning and afternoon routes.

Transportation staff will be taking several actions daily to clean and sanitize buses.

Students from the same household shall sit together on the bus when possible.

Students riding the bus will proceed toward the back of the bus, filling seats from the back to the front along the route. Upon arrival, students in the front of the bus will exit first. The first seat behind the driver will remain open. Students with medical issues should sit in the front of the bus.

These measures are encouraged to keep students from passing by other students while loading or unloading.

It is our goal to have students assigned the same seat for both morning and afternoon routes.

Normal bus protocols for safety will continue. Students should remain in their seats while the bus is moving, loading and unloading. There is to be no congregating of students in the aisles. Students will receive instruction on safety procedures.

High contact areas on the bus will be cleaned and sanitized after each route and as often as possible. Windows and doors will remain open, weather permitting, to ventilate the bus after each route.

STUDENTS ARRIVING BY CAR/WALKING/OTHER

Students with a fever greater than 100.4 and showing other Covid-19 symptoms should not come to school. Should a student arrive with suspected symptoms, parents/guardians will be contacted. Students with no fever will be allowed to go directly to their assigned classrooms. Faculty and staff should not enter the building with a fever of 100.4 or greater.

We encourage parents/guardians to talk to students about the importance of not congregating in groups. This is for their protection and for those who live in the home with them.

OUR CLASSROOMS

Masks are mandatory for all vaccinated and unvaccinated students over the age of 2, faculty and staff.

Seating will be arranged to maximize the distance between each student. Students will be seated to face the same direction in class.

Teachers shall maintain a daily seating chart to allow for contact tracing throughout the year.

Teachers and custodial staff will sanitize classrooms between each class.

A cleaning schedule should be posted and maintained. Principals shall monitor for compliance.

All classrooms will be disinfected at the close of each day with a disinfectant misting machine.

CHANGING CLASSES/RESTROOM BREAKS/HALLWAY

Masks are required for all vaccinated and unvaccinated persons over the age of 2.

Principals will have in place a traffic pattern for one-way travel or a plan to keep to a minimum the number of students in a hallway at one time. Every effort will be made to avoid two-way passing of students to reduce contact exposure.

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classes and in locations throughout the building. We encourage frequent use to help avoid spreading the virus.

Students will be excused for restroom breaks in smaller numbers. Teachers/Staff/Administration will monitor the number of students in the restroom.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home. Water fountains will be closed. Filling stations are available with supervision from school faculty and staff.

GYMS, PE CLASSES AND WEIGHTLIFTING ROOMS

Gymnasiums, weightlifting rooms and related facilities will be cleaned and sanitized frequently and between classes or sporting events. Hand hygiene rules shall be implemented in the gymnasium locker rooms and students advised not to share personal items or sporting uniforms. Disinfectant wipe stations will be available throughout the room for use on equipment after each use. Encourage students to practice good hand hygiene before and after using equipment.

PLAYGROUND

Playground guidance will continue to evolve and may vary from school to school. Schools altering or changing information listed here will be required to notify the School Health Coordinator for approval prior to implementing changes.

Students will be allowed to participate in structured outdoor play and activities. Schools will structure recess activities to limit the number of classes (students) on the playground during a recess period.

In addition to the masking requirement listed above, students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to participating in outdoor activities and when returning to the building.

FOOD SERVICE

Students will face in the same direction during meals, just as they do during the school day. Table seating often seen in primary classrooms is prohibited.

Students will sit in assigned seats.

Food sharing is not allowed.

Disposable supplies will be used as much as possible.

Sanitizing will occur after meals are completed.

Food service employees will wear masks when serving students. Masking is required except when eating or drinking for those vaccinated and unvaccinated while indoors.

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOLS

Visitors to the school must be approved by the building Principal. Only necessary/essential personnel on official school business, including visitors, will be permitted in the school buildings. Those meeting this description **shall wear a mask.** Masking is required for all while indoors.

Definition of a visitor: Anyone who is not a student enrolled in the Harlan County Public Schools or a school district employee.

Test-to-Stay

HARLAN COUNTY SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTING TEST-TO-STAY PROGRAM TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO AVOID QUARANTINE PERIODS

Beginning Wednesday, September 15th, the Harlan County Public Schools will begin offering an optional Test-to-Stay program which will allow students and staff who are identified as close contacts during COVID-19 contact tracing to avoid quarantining.

Under the Test-to-Stay program, students and staff who have been in close contact with an individual who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, and who are asymptomatic, can avoid quarantining from school by taking daily COVID-19 tests over the course of five school days (tests are not required during the weekend). Students and staff can remain at school as long as each test returns negative. The COVID-19 tests are administered at the student/staff's school each morning prior to the beginning of instruction for that day.

To be eligible for the program, parents and staff must complete the applicable permission and consent forms below which outline specific requirements. We ask that you complete the forms prior to potential exposure to expedite the testing process.

- [Test-to-Stay Information and Permission Online Form](#) (Family Health Care Associates)
- [Health Services Consent Online Form](#) (Family Health Care Associates)
- [Quick Swab Testing Information](#)

Please note that students would not be able to use HCPS transportation during the testing period. For questions, please contact HCPS Central Office at (606) 573-4330.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our district will make every effort to keep parents/guardians, students, faculty and staff informed of any developments in Covid-19 Pandemic protocol changes or updates. We will comply with state mandates for community and state notifications.

In the event Covid-19 illnesses arise, the school/district will communicate with you. This may occur in one or more ways through our all-call system (phone calls and texts), social media posts to Facebook and Twitter, letters in student backpacks, press releases to local news media outlets, and emails and the state monitoring and reporting websites.

Students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff are encouraged to follow our social media pages and our district webpage for updated information throughout the year.

Our District Covid-19 Pandemic plan will be updated on our district website as necessary. The first page of the plan will indicate the date any revisions are/were made.

Copies of plans will be available in all schools for public inspection.

We encourage you to use caution with social media posts from individuals not in official capacities with our school district or governmental agencies. When necessary, posts will be made by our school district, the Harlan County Health Department and the Harlan County Judge-Executive's office.

Employees should be aware of HIPPA laws concerning discussion of specific Covid or other illnesses. These should include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of sharing specific cases with identifying information on social media, conversations and other communication means.

The Superintendent or his designee is/are the official spokesperson(s) for the school district.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Virtual Learning is an option if an application was submitted prior to the July 9th, 2021, which was the deadline for the first term/trimester. Deadlines will be announced for future terms.

Anytime you have questions on the Virtual Learning program, please contact the student's teacher or the school office. The Central Office staff will be available as resource personnel during the ongoing pandemic.

Procedures for Use As The School Year Begins

Safety measures implemented at our schools

- Masking is required for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals while indoors.
- Training all staff in safety and sanitizing procedures.
- Additional custodial staffing, as needed.
- Staff will clean and disinfect all high touch surfaces frequently.
- Arranging classrooms to allow physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable and seated in the same direction.
- Providing hand sanitizer in all classrooms.
- Visitors/volunteers must wear a mask or show proof of Covid-19 vaccinations.
- Model and encourage good hygiene and hand-washing techniques at all times.
 - Before and after eating.
 - Before and after using the restroom.
 - When hands are soiled.
 - Upon loading the school bus.

Ensure sick students, teachers, or staff stay home if they are having fever and/or symptoms of Covid-19, including:

- Fever or 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 health care provider to be tested and instruct to isolate at home until they receive their test result. Sick students, teachers, or staff who experience non-Covid related illness may return when their symptoms resolve.

Students, teachers, and staff that have completed a consent form with Family Health Care may visit the Harlan County High School nurses station to get a rapid Covid-19 test. They can be contacted Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm at 606-574-2020 ext. 3529.

Ensure Persons who test positive for Covid-19 self-isolate away from school for 10 days after the start of their illness (or testing date) or otherwise follow the direction of the local public health department when it is safe for them to be around others.

At-home Covid test not accepted

Covid-19 test results that involve use of an “at-home” test kit and for which the specimen collection is not monitored by a trained healthcare provider **are not accepted**. Students, teachers, or staff who test positive for Covid-19 through a non-medically proctored “at-home” test **must obtain** an additional test from a medical provider to confirm the result.

What counts as close contact?

- You have been within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.
-

Who needs to quarantine?

People who have been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or [who are fully vaccinated](#).

Who is considered fully vaccinated?±

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to be quarantined if they have been [fully vaccinated](#) against the disease and show no symptoms.
-

Steps to take if you are a close contact to a person who has COVID-19.

Stay home and monitor your health

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at [higher risk](#) for getting very sick from COVID-19
-

Options to reduce quarantine

If you have **no COVID-19 symptoms** you can reduce your quarantine:

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 following a negative test result (test must occur 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the person who has COVID-19)
-

After stopping quarantine, you should

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to [prevent the spread of COVID-19.](#)
-

Students who are placed in isolation or quarantine must contact their school immediately to begin the process for home/hospital instruction. A signed medical form is required for home hospital enrollment. Failure to enroll in home/hospital instruction will result in absences.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

Improve facility cleaning to the greatest extent possible.

- Spray disinfectant via misting machines will be utilized in all schools and buses.
- Special attention will be given to high touch areas such as:
 - Water fill stations
 - Door knobs
 - Light switches
 - desk/computers
 - Phones
 - Toilets
 - Faucets
 - Sinks
 - Handrails
 - Restroom stall locks

If a Student, Employee or Visitor Reports a
Positive
COVID-19 Test
to you

Notify
Christy Whitaker, RN
Health Coordinator
606-573-4330 ext. 2025
or School Nurse

Notify
School Principal
or
Supervisor

Notify
Harlan County Health
Department
606-573-4820

Harlan County Schools
Communications Jeff
Phillips
606-573-4330 ext. 2046

Harlan County Schools
Maintenance Department
Bonita Duncan
606-573-3539

**SPORTS
PLANS
OF
ACTION**

Prepared by

Mr. Eugene Farmer

HCHS Athletic Director

Harlan County Public Schools

2021 COVID-19 Guidelines for High School Volleyball

Home Events

- 1) Stadium Capacity----Black Bear Gymnasium—3,670
 - A) No Capacity restrictions are suggested by the Harlan County Board of Education in correspondence with recommendations from the Office of the Governor and the CDC. However, fans are still encouraged to socially distance themselves for the health and safety of themselves and others.
- 2) Individual Health Screening----Coaches, Players, Support Staff
 - A) Coaches, Players and Staff are expected to monitor their bodies for COVID-related symptoms. Failure to do so could result in the mass quarantine of team members, coaches and support staffs.
- 3) Individual Health Screening----Fans
 - A) Signage will be placed at all entrances to the HCHS Campus informing fans of ALL Harlan County Public Schools COVID-19 Policies/Procedures as they continue to change.
- 4) Health Safety Measures
 - A) As per recommendation from the Office of the Governor and the CDC, it is recommended for the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and support staffs that All Unvaccinated Fans are encouraged to wear a mask/facial covering while inside of Harlan County High School except while they are actively eating and drinking.
 - B) Social Distancing---Fans who are not immediate family are strongly encouraged to maintain the socially acceptable distance of six feet (6 ft.) while sitting in the stands. This message will be reiterated throughout the evening via the Public Address Announcer and is being done for the health and safety of everyone.
 - C) Hand Sanitization---Hand Sanitization Stations will be placed at ALL entries into the Gymnasium. A specifically designated custodian will be present and constantly sanitizing high contact areas such as hand rails bathroom door knobs, etc. throughout the contest.
 - D) Restrooms---Fans will be asked to socially distance in the restroom facilities/atrium. Stickers and Signage will be placed both outside AND inside the restroom facilities.

- E) Concessions---Will be mostly Pre-Packaged at the discretion of The Board of Education, The Office of the Governor, and the up-to-date CDC Guidelines.**

- F) Concession Workers---Will wear gloves as well as masks/face shields (at their discretion) while serving food/drinks at Black Bear Gymnasium**