



# Hopkins County Schools 2021-2022 COVID-19 Operations Plan

**Updated 12/01/2021**

The following is Hopkins County Schools' 2021-2022 Covid-19 Operations Plan as required by the Kentucky General Assembly. Hopkins County Schools recognizes the significant and imminent safety concerns and challenges to operating schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our goal is to maintain an environment that offers an opportunity for students to receive in person instruction in the traditional school setting, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and well-being of students and staff to the greatest extent possible.

## **General Precautions**

- Masks are required inside all Hopkins County Schools' facilities. Effective Jan. 17, 2022, a new policy will go into effect based on the COVID-19 incidence rate for Hopkins County, which involves the average daily cases per 100,000 population. The policy includes the following:
  - Masks would be optional in school buildings when the incidence rate is zero to 30.9.
  - A "masking while moving" policy would be followed when the incidence rate is 31 to 49.9.
  - Masking would be required when the incidence rate is 50 and above.
- Safe social distancing of 3 feet will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- The district has partnered with a third-party provider that will administer a "Test to Stay" program. More information is in the "Test to Stay" section below.
- Hand washing and hygiene practices will be strongly encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the buildings.
- Cleaning protocols will be maintained throughout each campus, including both the continued use of R-Zero ARC units (UV-C light sanitizing systems) in all Hopkins County Schools buildings and cleaning high touch areas multiple times throughout the day.
- Handwashing breaks will be scheduled.
- Group gatherings will be limited.
- School nurses will be accessible for symptom screening.
- Staff or students who exhibit the symptoms below will not be at school or in the workplace to maintain the safety and well-being of our students and staff.
  - 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

## Social Distancing

- Classroom furniture should be spaced to the maximum extent possible, to support social distancing.
- Seating charts will be maintained in all classrooms, all cafeterias, and on all school buses.
- Sharing materials will be minimized
- Signage will be posted to explain appropriate social distancing, directional flow of traffic (when necessary), and other COVID related messaging deemed necessary.
- Non-essential visitors and volunteers will be limited.

## Test to Stay

- Our district has partnered with Ethos Labs of Newport, Ky., on development of a “Test to Stay” program for students and staff who are considered close contacts of a positive case.
- Hopkins County Schools will begin implementing the "Test to Stay" program on Oct. 18. Only students whose parents/guardians have completed the authorization form will participate in the "Test to Stay" process, which allows them to continue in-person learning at school with no quarantines, as long as test results are negative.
- The FDA-approved rapid antigen tests are performed in the lower part of the nasal cavity.
- “Test to Stay” is an option for anyone who has been identified as a close contact of a positive case as long as you do not have regular contact with that positive case (live in your household, etc.)
- There is no cost to students and staff for the "Test to Stay" service.
- Those who are quarantined as a result of unmasked situations (band, extracurricular, cafeteria, athletics, etc.) may participate in “Test to Stay” as long as they are asymptomatic. In order for our students to be able to participate in activities that are an extension of the school day, Ethos collectors will be available at the schools until 4 p.m. each day.
- Parents/Guardians must provide consent for their student to be tested on-site with "Test to Stay." You can do so by creating an account online at [ethosbacktoschool.com](https://ethosbacktoschool.com)
  - You will need to set up an account on that website to enroll your child in the program.
  - You can un-enroll at any point, but in order for your child to be tested with "Test to Stay," the parent/guardians need to sign up and give consent prior to the test.
- Students who are considered close contacts will be tested for five consecutive school days or until the quarantine order is lifted whichever comes first. At the end of five days or end of quarantine period (whichever comes first), students will be released from “Test to Stay” procedures.
- As long as COVID-19 testing results remain negative, students will be allowed to remain in school but must wear masks so there is no unintentional spread. It is still recommended that all Covid mitigation strategies are implemented at home until the five-day testing period has passed.
- Those participating in “Test to Stay” will need to arrive at school prior to the start of classes as directed in order to complete testing before going to class. Parents must bring their students to school and stay with them until the results are finalized.
- Testing locations will be available to students from all schools and will be operated by Ethos Labs.

## School Bus Safety

- Individuals are required to wear a mask on school buses.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Parents are requested to screen students for the symptoms below before allowing them on the bus. It is essential that parents understand the necessity of screening students for COVID symptoms before allowing them to attend school.
  - 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
- Assigned seating will be required for all students being transported by a board owned vehicle.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each route utilizing the appropriate cleaning measures as directed by the Director of Transportation, CDC, and Hopkins County Health Department.

### **Cleaning/Custodial**

- High Traffic Areas, including stairwells, bathrooms, common areas, and cafeterias will be cleaned as needed. Appropriate sanitizer will be applied to high touch areas in order to ensure the safety of our students. In situations in which an area becomes soiled, that area will be cleaned first, then sanitized utilizing CDC approved practices.
- Each school will create a specific bathroom and transition schedule to maximize custodial resources and not overwhelm the ability to sanitize appropriately.
- Schools will be sanitized nightly utilizing CDC recommended practices.
- Classrooms will be sanitized in between classes by the teachers / assistants / custodians with a CDC approved sanitizing spray as needed.

### **Athletics**

- Athletics programs will follow the mitigation strategies as outlined through the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.