



Hardin County Schools has a priority of having our students return to school safely, in person, five days per week. Below are the mitigating strategies we have in place to achieve this goal.	
Safety Practices BEFORE students or staff arrive for the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do a daily self-check - If a student or staff member has any of the following, please do not come to school and determine if you should see a health care provider.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fever○ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing○ New loss of taste or smell○ Headache or congestion● If you suspect you or your child have COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider regarding the need for COVID testing before returning to work.● Be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assigned seating on buses.● All students and staff will be required to wear a mask while riding on a bus. A driver is not required to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.● Hand Sanitizer will be used upon entry onto the bus.● Family units will sit together.● Buses will be sanitized between routes.● No guests of students will be permitted to ride the bus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will load their bus and the bus will depart as quickly as possible to avoid crowding in halls or in bus loading areas to the greatest extent possible. ● Maintain social distancing when possible.
<p>Masks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is required for all people to wear a mask while indoors at a Hardin County Schools facility. ● Students or staff with a medical exemption will not be required to wear a mask. ● Each Thursday, the incidence map will be reviewed to determine the level of mitigation for the following week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the incidence rate is below 50 for Hardin County, the wearing of a mask is strongly encouraged but the staff or student can choose whether or not to wear a mask. Department of Public Health ○ If the incidence rate is 50 or above, masks will be required indoors. Department of Public Health ● Masks will be available when loading a bus or entering school. ● Each school will develop protocols for allowing students masks breaks throughout the day.
<p>School - Related Exposures~</p> <p>Direct Contact Option</p> <p>Test to Stay</p> <p>Quarantine</p>	<p><u>Direct Contact Option to stay in school when direct contact</u> (Beginning September 27, 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social distancing should continue when physically possible. ● If both students are masked consistently and appropriately, regardless of distance, and one is deemed a positive case, parents will be informed by letter that their student is considered a direct contact of a positive case. (Letters may be sent to parents via Class Dojo, text, Sent It, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a result of student being identified as a SCHOOL - RELATED Direct Contact, parents will be provided 3 Options to include 1) Direct Contact only - Symptom monitoring; 2) Test to Stay; and 3) Quarantine (7,10, or 14 days) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If parent selects Direct Contact Option 1 as indicated in letter, then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent is to check for symptoms to be monitored at home and at school (Day 0-7) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fever ○ new uncontrolled cough that interferes with breathing ○ new rash ○ loss of taste/smell ○ GI symptoms like vomiting, etc - Quarantine while not in school. Note: Students who participate in non-contact sports/extracurricular activities may continue to do so based on the above symptom screener. - When arriving at school, students will report to the Designated Area for a “Healthy at School” Check. (Review of above symptoms)

- Return to full privileges {school and other extracurricular activities to include contact sports} on Day 8
- Special Note: Students who participate in *non-contact* sports/extracurricular activities may continue to do so based on the above symptom screener. (golf, cross country, marching band/JROTC ONLY if outside and socially distanced, academic activities if students are wearing a mask and can be socially distanced.)
- The Direct Contact option {Opti is not available for situations where students are not socially distanced and masks are not worn, such as lunch, breakfast, and contact sports where competitors or teammates are within close proximity and share direct contact with equipment. (football, basketball, volleyball, cheer, soccer)
- If parent selects Option 2 {Test to Stay}, then:
 - Student must present with no symptoms
 - Parents will bring their child to school (Day 1-5) to be tested. If negative, then the student reports to class.
 - Attend school without testing on Day 6 and Day 7
 - Quarantine while not in school (Day 0-7). Note: Students who participate in non-contact sports/extracurricular activities may continue to do so based on the above symptom screener.
 - Return to full privileges {school and other extracurricular activities to include contact sports} on Day 8
 - Protocols for the "Test to Stay" option were created by our local Health Department (Lincoln Trail District Health Department) on guidance from the State Department of Public Health.
- If a parent selects Option 3 {Quarantine - 7, 10, or 14 days}, then use the Tracking Sheet provided by the school which outlines all guidelines.
- Parents should notify school if their child is fully vaccinated or had a positive COVID test result within the past 90 days.

Cafeteria/Food

- Breakfast and lunch are available free of charge at all schools for enrolled HCS students.
- Seating charts must be maintained for the cafeteria.
- Students are allowed to bring their own lunch from home.

Gym/Media Center/Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same classroom expectations would be followed in these areas. • A hand sanitation (washing or use of sanitizer) routine should be utilized before or upon entry to and exit from the gym. • Seating charts are required. • Equipment will be sanitized at reasonable intervals.
Lifetime/Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to use hand sanitizers before exiting the building for recess. • Students are expected to use hand sanitizer upon reentering the building following recess. • When students are outside fully participating in exercise, masks are not encouraged.
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large indoor assemblies where social distancing cannot be accomplished will not be held at this time.
Music Choir/Singing Instruments	<p>*No updated guidance for 2021-22 available from KMA at this time. These recommendations may change if KMA issues updated guidelines.</p> <p>Choir/Singing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spacing between singers should be 6 feet or greater if possible. • See guidelines for masking. • All students should face the same direction. <p>Music/Instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a social distance of 6 feet or greater if possible. • All students should face the same direction. • Utilize instrument filtering devices to the greatest extent possible. • Musical instruments or devices to play an instrument should not be shared by students in the same class and need to be cleaned between classes (piano keys, tambourine, triangle, Latin percussion instruments, and so forth).
Classroom Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members are required to wear a mask when students are present regardless of distance. • Personal items may be housed in the classroom with the understanding that classrooms will be misted/sanitized each evening. Personal items may be impacted by the cleaning regimen. • Classroom rugs may be returned to the classroom with only small cohorts of students utilizing carpet space at any given time. • Small groups are allowed but seating charts for groups over 15 minutes (total per day) are required.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is recommended that seating charts be kept consistent between classes (primary class and related arts) and lunch to the greatest extent possible in the elementary setting. ● Seating charts must be maintained to assist with contact tracing. All desks should be arranged so that students' desks are designed to maintain small student pods (6 or less) throughout all school settings or face similar directions. CDC recommends spacing of desks 3 feet apart in the classroom where possible. ● Special need accommodations: gloves should be worn when changing briefs and feeding students. Face shields should be worn by staff if saliva expulsion or spitting is a concern. Face shields can be provided to a student in lieu of a face mask as requested by any parent of a special needs student who has concerns.
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each school has a water fill station and this is the only available option for water. No drinking directly from the fountain. ● Students should be encouraged to have individual refillable water bottles brought from home that can be filled. ● Water fountains will be cleaned and sanitized frequently throughout the school day.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field trips can resume. ● Seating charts must be maintained. ● Bus guidelines must be followed while on field trips. ● Organizers of the field trip must ensure all COVID-19 guidelines of the location being visited are followed (Mask, social distancing, etc.).
Cleaning, Sanitation, and Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High touch areas and frequently used spaces, including restrooms, will be closely monitored and cleaned more frequently by custodial staff. ● Frequent hand washing and hand sanitation will be taught and encouraged. ● HVAC units will operate for longer time periods to improve ventilation and filtration. ● HVAC filters will be monitored more frequently. ● All buildings will be disinfected/misted daily.
Health Rooms: Isolation Quarantine Vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students with routine health needs (who do not have fever or symptoms) will be separated from students who present with a fever or any symptoms of illness. Symptomatic students will be separated by 6 feet. ● For any student or staff identified having a positive COVID-19 test, the school will perform contact tracing for any staff or students who may have been exposed according to CDC guidelines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive test result will require that person to have a 10 day isolation from onset of symptoms or date of test if asymptomatic. The Lincoln Trail District Health Department will be notified of all positive cases and on a consultation basis as needed. ○ Any person exposed for 15 minutes or longer within 48 hours of a positive person’s diagnosis (or symptom onset) will be identified as a Direct Contact and notified by the school if a school-related exposure. ○ For Household and non-household exposures (i.e. birthday parties, family gatherings, etc.), parents are to notify the school with the last date of exposure to the positive case of COVID and also provide the date of the individual’s positive test. School will then create and email a Tracking Worksheet which outlines all guidelines for a 7, 10 and 14 day quarantine. ○ Note: In the Pre-K-12 setting, a student will not be considered an exposure (direct contact) if the classroom setting had the student 3 feet or more away from the positive case individual and both were wearing a mask properly and consistently. ● Any staff or student who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 should be screened by the school nurse and encouraged to seek diagnostic testing before returning to the school setting. They will be required to be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications and improved symptoms if no test is performed. ● The school nurse will assist families in seeking diagnostic testing. ● While COVID-19 vaccinations are not mandatory, COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered to interested individuals and families.
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social distancing will be encouraged during class transitions.
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restrooms will have scheduled cleaning and disinfecting. ● Students should be reminded to wash their hands (20 seconds or more) after using the restroom.
Handwashing/ Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should be reminded to wash their hands (20 seconds or more) or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer after using the restroom, before eating, before and after outdoor play. ● It is recommended by the CDC and the Kentucky Department of Education that all unvaccinated people wear a mask while indoors. HCS will support a parent or employee’s decision to follow this recommendation. ● Students will be reminded to cough/sneeze into their elbow to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets. ● Face masks will be available at each school for any student or staff member who needs or requests one.

Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will adhere to KHSAA guidance. Click here Specifically reference page 6. ● Team rosters will be maintained in the event of contact tracing. ● Coaches may request masks as needed from the school office.
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Where to get PPE	
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Mask/Gloves/Hand Sanitizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PPE materials have been sent to schools. If additional materials are needed, these requests can be made through your school's office manager who will then reach out to the Central Office.
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