

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Safe Return to
In-Person
Instruction and
Continuity of
Services Plan



Perry County Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Overview

Perry County Schools will continue work collaboratively with Kentucky River District Health Department, the Kentucky Department of Public Health, and Kentucky Department of Education to ensure that appropriate mitigation and prevention strategies are in place for the return of in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year.

In July 2020 Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department of Public Health released a Healthy at Schools document which provided requirements, recommendations, and considerations for districts as they prepared for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. This document was revised throughout the school year as more information became available, as vaccines were rolled out, and as the incidence rate of cases changed across the state.

In June 2021 with vaccines readily available and a significant improvement in the incidence rate across the state, the statewide mask mandate was lifted, and all restrictions in place through the Healthy at Schools document were lifted.

In July 2021 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidance on in-person instruction and mitigation and prevention strategies that schools and districts should take. This guidance was taken by the Kentucky Department of Public Health and guidance has been released for local districts. Currently, this guidance is a recommendation for districts, and not a requirement.

There is growing concern, that with recent spikes in positive cases throughout the state of Kentucky, in conjunction with a new Covid-19 variant, that school districts will be forced to change recent course, and revert to mass quantities of PPE, mask wearing, social distance, and other mitigation strategies.

Health and Safety of Students and Staff

Perry 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, our district health team, and ongoing data analysis will determine the steps taken.

Steps taken will range from prevention and mitigation strategies discussed below, alternative (hybrid/virtual) instruction models, and other strategies as needed upon the guidance of local, regional, and state education and health officials. The health and safety of our students, staff, families, and community remain a top priority for Perry County Schools and will continue to drive educational decision making as we gain a broader understanding of COVID-19 and its impact on the schools, district, and community.

Mitigation Strategies (CDC Safety Recommendations)

Universal Masking- The statewide mask mandate in Kentucky and in schools was lifted in June 2021. At this time, Perry County Schools will require students, staff, and visitors to wear a mask while in school, district facilities, buses/vehicles, or our campuses.

Physical Distancing- Perry County Schools will work to ensure that adequate physical distancing is in place for students and staff as we return to in-person instruction. This distancing may not meet the recommendation of 3 feet, but every effort will be made to ensure distancing is taken into account in classroom design and set-up.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette- Handwashing and appropriate etiquette signage will be visible throughout district facilities. Reminders to students, staff, and visitors will be made regularly. Hand sanitizer will be made readily available, particularly in common and high traffic areas.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities- Regular cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection of buildings will occur. Appropriate sanitizing supplies will be available for use on hard and high traffic areas for use regularly during the school day and during transition periods.

Improving Ventilation- A portion of ESSER III will be earmarked to be used to improve the indoor air quality in buildings across the district. Additionally, ventilation will be monitored and adjustments to re-circulation of outdoor air will be made as situations warrant.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine- Perry County Schools will work closely with local and state health officials to ensure that appropriate reporting and steps are taken as needed for individuals needing to isolate or quarantine because of contact tracing of individuals testing positive for COVID-19.

Diagnostic Screening- Perry 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.

Vaccination Efforts- Perry County Schools will work closely with local health officials to provide collaborative opportunities for COVID-19 vaccines. This will include allowing the local health department to provide vaccines to those eligible at selected back to school events.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities- The district will work closely with Kentucky Department of Education to ensure that all students with disabilities are receiving appropriate services in accordance with the Individual Education Plans as identified under the provisions of IDEA.

Continuity of Services Academic Needs- Perry County Schools plans to begin the year with full time in-person learning available for any student who desires. Currently, virtual education options will not be available to students, however, this is subject to change. Should incidence rates and case numbers rise to a level where other instructional methods are needed to continue instruction, the district has the resources and tools available to make a shift very quickly and ensure that the loss of instructional time is minimized for all students. The district will follow our submitted NTI plan for any virtual instruction needed during this 21-22 school year. This includes the use of multiple platforms such as Google meets and various supplemental resources like Kami which allows us to continue the progress of our current curriculum maps and pacing guides. The virtual option will be utilized as needed due to the nature of our current pandemic. In addition, there will be a heavy focus on grades K-3, in particular Tier II and Tier III students, in reading and math for direct small group and one to one instruction. Additional staff have been added to assist with high percentage of student regression.

Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs- Perry 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 not only in the schools, but also with families, staff, and the community. Should a shift to hybrid or virtual education occur because of COVID-19, this same staff will be available through other means of communication to ensure that student, staff, and community needs are met.

District Support Services- Perry County Schools will ensure that student support services such as health, food services, and transportation are available to the greatest extent possible should a shift to hybrid or virtual instruction be needed at any point. These services will be available to all eligible students pursuant to board policy and other guidance.

Review/Updates

Perry County Schools district administration and other stakeholders will regularly review the information presented in this plan. Should rates begin rising and the state created color coded system indicates that Perry County is in the "red" category, reviews will occur frequently to ensure that any updates or changes to the procedures and plans are communicated.