



HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Harry Burchett, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Harrison County Schools' Students, Families, Staff and Community,

Prior to the winter break, Governor Beshear communicated to the public that he was working with the Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department of Public Health to help school districts be able to return to in-person services as soon as possible even in cases where the community-wide spread of the COVID-19 virus was in an accelerated state. In Harrison County, your school and community leaders have worked cooperatively to ensure safe in-person learning by utilizing a hybrid or A/B student grouping and learning model.

We utilized this model in October and November so we could safely have students and teachers learning together in person. We will continue to utilize this model as necessary to safely meet the needs of our students in the future. Our hybrid model is tested and proven effective at times when the average number of new daily cases in the community is at or below five. We believe our model can support in-person learning at double that rate, which is where our numbers remained up until one week ago.

On Monday of this week, there were 39 new cases in Harrison County. There were 13 new cases on Tuesday and 27 on Wednesday. Currently, the average number of new daily cases in Harrison County is 16.5. This number is not an incident rate like reflected on the state's map, but rather the daily average of new COVID-19 positive cases for the most recent seven days. This is the most accurate and real-time local data available. Over the last week, the number of positive cases has effectively doubled climbing from 8.5 daily cases to now 16.5 new cases daily. This is a significant increase in the amount of cases and transmission in this community.

Since the first day of January, Harrison County Schools has had over 16 employees either quarantined or tested positive for the virus and unable to perform their duties. Additionally, in that same time period, we have had 24 or more students reported as either quarantined or positive. As much as we desire to have in-person learning because it is the best way for students to learn, unfortunately at this time we are unable to do so.

Therefore, due to the number of daily positive cases, the amount of students and staff quarantined, the upward trend of these numbers and the overall amount of community spread, the Harrison County School District will remain in the virtual / remote learning mode for the week of January 11 – 15.

Although every community is different and the spread in our community could begin back down tomorrow, health experts tell us that we can expect these numbers to remain high or even increase over the next couple of weeks. . If those health experts are correct and in an effort to keep families informed, that means it could possibly be January 25 before we are able to return to in-person learning and you should plan for that possibility.



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We know how important it is for your children to see their school family, engage with their friends and learn in their regular environment, therefore, in the event our situation drastically improves, meaning a significant reduction in the number of new positive daily cases, we will make an announcement to return to in-person learning as quickly and safely as possible. For now, important dates are listed below.

January 11 – 15	Virtual / Remote Learning
January 18	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)
January 19 – 22	Virtual / Remote Learning (Unless Conditions Improve)

Targeted Services will continue to be provided on a case-by-case basis. Many of our students are already scheduled for and have been participating in targeted learning services in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Kentucky Department of Education. It is extremely important for you and/or your child to maintain regular communication with their teacher/s and school. If there is a breakdown in communications for any reason, please reach out to your child's principal so they may help you resolve any difficulties.

I know our students, our teachers, and our families want to be able to return to in-person learning as soon as possible. The best way to be able to achieve that in our community is for everyone to continue properly wearing their masks, maintain social distancing, regularly wash and/or sanitize your hands, and consider that everyone you come in contact with may currently have the virus. The processes that help keep us safe in school will also work in the community, but we need everyone's help.

Again, I want to thank every student, staff member, parent and the community for your support and understanding during these most difficult of times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harry E. Burchett, Superintendent
Harrison County Public Schools