

COVID-19 SCHOOL OPERATIONS PLAN

Updated 9/14/21

The Lee County Schools is committed to providing a quality education to our students while we work through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the 2020-2021 school year, we put many things in place to keep our students and staff safe and we will be continuing many of these things as we move into the 2021-2022 school year. We will be monitoring COVID-19 numbers in our school and community and make decisions regarding changes we need to make at any time throughout the school year. We will also follow any required mandates that are in place and realize mandates can be put in place or removed throughout the pandemic.

This updated plan was originally entitled our Covid Reopening Plan and is being updated to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 1 enacted on 9/10/21.

MASKS

Universal mask wearing by all staff, students, and visitors in all school facilities will be required in the Lee County School district effective the moment the measure is passed by the Lee County Board of Education on September 14, 2021. The guidelines regarding face coverings will be the same as those set forth in 702 KAR 1:195E, Face Coverings in School Facilities. Senate Bill 1 voids this regulation but we find it useful in defining the use of face coverings in our schools. Universal masking will continue until the school board meets again in October where the situation can be re-evaluated. At that time, the Board will review a recommendation by the superintendent to utilize a matrix for mask wearing that could include reducing the time wearing masks is required in the school based on the incidence rate in the county. This recommendation will be made after working with the Department for Public Health and school districts across the state and region.

VACCINATIONS

While there is a lot of science behind the COVID-19 vaccinations, being vaccinated is a personal choice for adults and for parents and guardians of our students. Everyone should consult with their family physician and make a choice that is right for their circumstances. COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available at our school to students age 12 and up as well as to staff and community members during our registration event. Vaccines can be received at the Lee County Health Department and other locations throughout the county.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The concept of remaining 6 feet apart will be emphasized where practical throughout the school setting. However, in order to bring back as many students to our school as possible, we know that a 6 feet distance will not be achieved in most locations. We will put as much space as possible between students when the incidence rate in the county is high or when cases come into our schools. We will also utilize the concept of putting students into “pods” or small groups that remain consistent regardless of classroom setting.

CONTACT TRACING and QUARANTINES

Contact tracing is an important aspect of containing the COVID-19 virus. While the health department will continue to contact trace throughout the community, we will continue to trace and require quarantines from school like we did during the 2020-2021 school year. Students and staff who come in contact with a positive case of COVID-19 will be expected to quarantine following current public health recommendations. Current recommendations are a 10 day quarantine period with no symptoms. Students and staff determined to be positive with COVID-19 will isolate for a period of 10 days. Guidance will be provided to students and staff regarding particular quarantine periods.

TEST TO STAY PROGRAM

At this time we are reviewing documentation on the Test to Stay program. We have contracted with Wild Health to provide testing in our schools and will work with them to screen those with permission on a regular basis and test those with symptoms when requested. We will wait until the Kentucky Department of Health has time to produce their model plan as required in Senate Bill 1 before determining if we implement a test to stay program.

CLASSROOMS

The student desks in classrooms prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were not easily cleaned and were not conducive to both group learning environments and individually spaced environments, so all new student desks and chairs have been purchased that will allow our students to be socially distanced when needed or collaborate in groups when conditions allow. The desks and chairs will be separate from each other and will be easily cleaned.

During the 2020-2021 school year students remained in the same classroom as much as possible to eliminate the potential spread of the illness in transition periods. During the 2021-2022 school year students will be allowed to move from one classroom to another but when the same group of students moves together they will have the same seating arrangement in each location they travel.

TRANSPORTATION

Masks will be required on school bus transportation when we open school in the 2021-2022 school year. If conditions change or the CDC provides new guidance, we will make adjustments to the plan. Students will have assigned seats on the bus for ease of contact tracing and families will be asked to sit together. Extracurricular trips will follow this same guidance.

INSTRUCTION

Teachers will utilize the Google Classroom learning management system. They will post lessons in the Google Classroom to utilize throughout the year. Students who may go on quarantine or get ill will be able to complete their work from home. Teachers will also utilize the iPad and SWIVL devices provided last year to record lessons or provide real-time connections for lessons throughout the day for those students who may be on a quarantine.

In addition to the SWIVL devices and Google Classroom, teachers will have available the programs of Screencastify to record lessons from their computer and EdPuzzle for assessing learning. We will also

continue to make APEX Learning available for Lee County Middle High School students in the event we have a long shut down due to COVID-19.

LEE COUNTY BOBCAT VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The Lee County Schools will have a virtual option for students who were successful with virtual work during the 2020-2021 school year or who are new to the district and wishing to enroll and commit to being successful with virtual learning. There is an application process and applicants will be reviewed by our Virtual Academy Dean as well as the DPP and Instructional Supervisor. Students who qualify for the virtual academy will utilize instruction through the SchoolsPLP learning platform. All applications for the Bobcat Virtual Academy must be received no later than September 15, 2021 for this current school year. The Virtual Academy is an option for yearlong virtual learning.

INTERMITTENT VIRTUAL LEARNING

We are currently exploring options for possible intermittent virtual learning for families who are concerned of high COVID incidence rates for a short time period. The regulations in Senate Bill 1 may allow us some flexibility with this option, but it will take longer than the time provided to have this plan to explore what this may mean for our district. We will keep families informed if we are able to offer virtual learning in heightened peaks of the pandemic for those who have health concerns.

CLEANING and DISINFECTING

Schools and buses will be cleaned regularly and disinfected with a solution of ArmourGuard RTU Disinfectant every 90 days. This product coats surfaces so that a live virus will die on it.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be evaluated on an individual basis. Data such as incident rate in our county, incident rate at the destination, number of students participating, reason for the trip, etc. will assist in determining if a trip can take place.

ATHLETICS

During the 2020-2021 school year several protocols were put into place to keep athletes and fans safe throughout the COVID pandemic. All teams will use caution as students practice and participate in competition. We will determine the level of restrictions on athletic activity based upon the cases of COVID in our student and community population.

COVID TESTING

During the August 17, 2021 board meeting our school board voted to contract with Wild Health to do COVID screening on a weekly basis and allow for our staff to be trained to do COVID testing for symptomatic individuals or those who were in contact with individuals. COVID testing will be available free of charge to employees and students in the 2021-2022 school year.

COVID testing will be performed each Tuesday by Wild Health to all who give permission. School nurses are also trained to provide COVID testing in the schools for students or staff who present symptoms or who were listed as a contact of a positive case. COVID testing is also available at our central office location for students and staff who believe they have symptoms but have not entered the building so

we can keep potential positive cases out of our building. All testing is free of charge to staff and students.