

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS



Sarah S. Wasson, Superintendent | sarah.wasson@lee.kyschools.us

November 10, 2021

To: Lee County Parents and Staff

The safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance to our Board of Education and our district leadership as we learn to live in a world where COVID-19 exists and is not likely to disappear. Our county incident rates have steadily declined and our weekly screenings with Wild Health have shown promising results. We are in a place where we feel we can reduce some of the restrictions in regards to wearing masks. Please read this information carefully to know the expectations on mask wearing in the days ahead.

At the Lee County Board of Education meeting on November 9, 2021, the Board approved a new COVID-19 School Operations Plan. Per federal mandate, masks will still be required to be worn on school buses. The requirement of wearing masks at Lee County Elementary will continue until our students have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. Masks will also continue to be required at the Area Technology Center due to Kentucky Department of Education guidelines. However, the following changes will be implemented:

1. Beginning Monday, November 15, masks will be optional for students and staff at Lee County Middle High School and Central Office. Masks will be highly recommended for unvaccinated students and staff as well as those with conditions making them at risk of severe illness from contracting COVID-19.
2. Because masks will be optional at the Middle High School, quarantine distances will change to a distance of 6 feet instead of 3 feet in a classroom setting for unmasked students and staff. Vaccinated students will still not have to quarantine if they have no symptoms.
3. Students who are vaccinated and exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 will be required to wear masks for 14 days unless they receive a negative test result on day 5-7 after exposure per CDC recommendation. This exception stems from updated guidance on October 20, 2021 from Kentucky Public Health.
4. Mask wearing will be optional for those attending after school events throughout the district effective immediately. If it is determined that after school events are contributing to an increase in staff and student COVID-19 cases affecting our ability to safely operate school, we reserve the right to require masks for after school events at any time.
5. Parents of students at Lee County Elementary School will have the option of enrolling their children in the "Test to Stay" program if they have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 in the school setting. The Test to Stay program will not apply to exposures that occur in the home, at athletic events, or anyplace outside of the school setting. Details of the Test to Stay program as well as an information sheet for parents are posted to the Superintendent Message page on the district website. Per current Department of Public Health guidance, this program can

only be used when there is universal masking, so it only applies to Lee County Elementary School.

6. Unvaccinated visitors will be requested to wear masks in our facilities.

As superintendent, I will monitor the county incidence rate, review weekly county averages, assess rolling county averages weekly/monthly to determine trends, review individual school data including school quarantines and positive cases (staff and student), and utilize other data such as hospital capacity to determine if there is a need to go back to a universal masking policy. If at any time it is deemed necessary to require mask wearing in the Middle High School and Central Office locations, all staff and students will be notified through our school messaging system, website, and Facebook pages. Notification will be given at least one day in advance of the requirement.

We are in the process of working out the logistics to provide a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for our students. Parents will be notified when the details are determined.

All students who ride a bus, have a class at the ATC, or who attend Lee County Elementary should ensure they have a mask with them each day. For students in grades 6-12, please talk with your child and let him or her know your expectation of wearing masks. We will keep you informed of any changes to this plan in the future.

Thank you,



Sarah S. Wasson
Superintendent
Lee County Schools