

COVID-19 Attendance Policy Updates

There may be extended periods of time when your child has to stay at home because they are sick OR because they have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Harrison County Schools will be following the guidelines from both state and local health agencies, as outlined below:

- If your child is sent home from school with a fever, they are automatically excused from school for 72 hours (3 days), and must remain home. Students may return to school when they have been fever free for at least 72 hours. The school nurse will notify the attendance clerk and absences will be excused for those days.
- If a child is sent home from school with COVID-19 symptoms, a Doctor's statement will be needed prior to student returning to school.
- If your child visits the doctor, please communicate the diagnosis with the school nurse and send, electronically, the doctor orders to allow the school to update attendance in advance.
- Your student will be responsible for instruction and assignments missed while they are away from school. Students that feel well enough, will have the ability to login to their class and participate in the class virtually, even if they don't move to the virtual option for attendance.
- If internet is not available, parents/students will need to contact the school to make arrangements to pick-up paper copies. Students will be asked to submit work electronically once they return to school.
- Parents who wish to move their child(ren) to an entirely virtual option should contact the school office.
- Providing the school with any doctor statement, when received rather than when students return, will allow us to mark excused attendance in advance to avoid phone calls and text alerts

NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST:

- Students may return to school once they have been fever-free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication. We will need documentation of a negative COVID-19 test.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the school nurse and provide, electronically, the results of the test so that attendance can be updated. Students with a positive test will be excused automatically for at least 10 days, and attendance will be marked excused.

There could be multiple times throughout the year that the Health Department notifies us that we have a student or staff member that has tested positive for COVID-19. When this occurs, specific students or classrooms may be asked to remain at home. If this should occur, the school nurse will work with office staff to excuse students from school on those days. To assist the Health Department we may be asked to provide them with the following;

- Classroom seating charts
- Bus seating charts
- Student schedules
- Contact Information

This information will allow them to quickly notify families that they have come in contact with another person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

When students are excluded from school by the health department, they will access instruction virtually. Teachers will provide instruction using Google Classroom and/or Edgenuity. Students who are quarantined but healthy enough to participate, will log in virtually and attend class.

Paper/Pencil packets will only be made for students who are quarantined without internet access. Students may use the schools' parking lots to access internet but need to remain inside their cars. Students may download instruction and assignments at a connectivity point, and work on them at home even without internet access. Completed assignments may be uploaded on return to school.

Attendance Calculation for Virtual Students:

Students who will be working virtually from home will have attendance calculated based on participation, as designed by the state. Teachers will be documenting student participation that will count for attendance. Each day, students must access instruction, communicate with their teacher, and work on assignments in order to be recorded for participation. Students, who do not, will receive an unexcused absence for the day. If your child is ill and cannot participate for more than two days in a row, please contact the teacher. All districts are still required to follow KRS 159.150 and KRS 159.010 related to compulsory attendance. No Participation Days and Unexcused Absences will be used to calculate truancy. A student will be considered habitually truant if they have a total of 6 days either Unexcused Absences or No Participation Days or a combination of these two types.

Attendance Calculation for In-Person:

Schools will document present or absent students in Infinite Campus, as usual. When students are sent home or required to stay home from school, we will mark, in advance, excused absences from school. If students are sent home to quarantine, parents are asked to send any documentation from the doctor when it is received so that we may mark any other days ordered by the doctor in advance as well. Marking days in advance not only avoids unexcused absences, but also will keep parents from getting so many attendance calls and text messages. All districts are still required to follow KRS 159.150 and KRS 159.010 related to compulsory attendance. Participation Days and Unexcused Absences will be used to calculate truancy. A student will be considered habitually truant if they have a total of 6 days either Unexcused Absences or No Participation or a combination of these two types.