



## COVID-19 SCHOOL OPERATIONS PLAN

**Updated 08/17/2023**

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

During the 2022-23 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 2023-24 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 at any time.

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

### COVID TESTING

Symptomatic staff and students will be provided with free at home COVID testing kits provided by the State of Kentucky as long as supplies last. There will be no COVID testing at school administered by staff.

### MASKS

Mask wearing will be optional for students and staff at both Lee County Elementary, Lee County Middle High School and District Central Office locations as long as the numbers of COVID-19 cases in the community, school, and district building remain low. If at any time the superintendent deems it necessary to require mask wearing in the schools and/or Central Office locations, the staff and students will be notified through our school messaging system, website, and Facebook pages. Notifications will be given at least one day in advance of the requirement.

**IMPORTANT EXCEPTION:** Per the Health Department, everyone who is known to have had close contact to a person with COVID-19 should wear a well-fitting mask when around others for 10 days and is recommended to be tested 5 days or more after the exposure. This exception stems from updated guidance on March 4, 2022 from Kentucky Public Health. Students who are required to isolate for a period of 5 days will be required to wear a mask upon return to school for 5 additional days.

### Student or Staff Health Concerns:

As of March 2, 2022, the Kentucky Department of Education released guidance that Area Technology Centers can follow the masking recommendations of the school district in which they are located. Therefore, current and future masking policies for the ATC will follow those of the Lee County Middle High School.

### 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 5 and up as well as to staff and community members. Vaccines can be received at the Lee County Health Department and other locations throughout the county.

### **CONTACT TRACING and QUARANTINES**

The guidance from the Kentucky Public Health department and KDE regarding contact tracing and quarantine changed on March 4, 2022. According to updated guidance, contact tracing following school exposures to COVID-19 is not expected. Additionally, quarantine is not routinely recommended following exposures to COVID-19 that occur in the school settings

When COVID-19 exposures occur outside of the school setting, quarantine is not recommended for students who have completed their 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series, persons 18 years of age and older who are up to date with the recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, and persons who have documented COVID-19 illness in the 3 months prior to their exposure.

### **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.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Masks are no longer required on school bus transportation. Buses will remain being cleaned regularly.

### **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.

### **LEE COUNTY BOBCAT VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

The Lee County Schools will have a virtual option for students who were successful with virtual work during the 2022-23 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 APEX and/or the SchoolsPLP learning platform. The Virtual Academy is an option for yearlong virtual learning.

### **CLEANING and DISINFECTING**

Schools and buses will be cleaned regularly and disinfected with a solution of approved Disinfectant.

\*\*\*\*This plan will be reviewed by the Board of Education on September 12, 2023.