



## **Rockcastle County Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-22**

Rockcastle County Schools is committed to providing the highest quality education to the students of our community. Providing high quality in-person instruction is the best and most effective method of meeting this goal. Rockcastle County Schools is focused on ensuring the health and well being of our students while ensuring that there is an intentional emphasis on the education of the whole child.

The following reopening plan will apply to the 2021-22 school year for Rockcastle County Schools. The plan is subject to change by Gubernatorial or Presidential Executive Order, Legislative action, CDC and/or Health Department regulations, and/or KDE mandated changes.

The goal of Rockcastle County Schools is to create a learning environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to in person learning, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff to the greatest extent possible.

### **Rockcastle County Schools Health and Safety Protocols:**

- Vaccination is the best public health strategy to curtail the COVID-19 Pandemic. Rockcastle County Schools in partnership with Rockcastle Regional Hospital and the Rockcastle County Health Department will continue to provide opportunities for eligible staff and students to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Rockcastle County Schools as required by the local health department will continue contact tracing and will quarantine COVID-19 exposures. However, individuals who are vaccinated will not be required to quarantine unless they are

experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Being vaccinated further reduces the likelihood of students missing school, extracurricular activities, and/or athletics.

- Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts or who test positive for COVID-19 will be instructed to self-quarantine. A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious. The quarantine may be discontinued when the Rockcastle County Public Health Department determines the individual is safe to be around others or:
  - After day 7 if the individual is symptom free and receives a negative COVID-19 test 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case.
  - After day 10 without testing if the individual is symptom free.
- It is the recommendation of the CDC, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Kentucky Department of Public Health that all individuals wear masks while indoors in all classroom and non classroom settings unless otherwise exempted. In following this guidance, Rockcastle County Schools highly recommends that all students and staff wear a mask indoors, however, parents and/or guardians of students and staff members have the **CHOICE** of deciding whether to mask or not mask while in school buildings and on school grounds. This choice is available regardless of one's vaccination status.
- In accordance with the CDC's Public Health Order which states systems must, "require masks on public transportation, including buses operated by public and private school systems, for all persons two years of age or older unless otherwise exempted in accordance with President Biden's Executive Order and CDC's Public Health Order, **students over the age of two and all staff at all will be required to wear a mask at all times while on a school bus.**
- Rockcastle County Schools will adhere to maintaining three feet of physical distancing where possible. This is not available in all settings due to the number of students, building space limitations, and or the availability of staff supervision.
- Classroom seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing and quarantines.
- Masks will be provided by the district should anyone need one.
- Field Trips and Competitive Trips will resume as necessary and will maintain an instructional focus.

- Rockcastle County Schools is currently installing bipolar ionization units in all classrooms to mitigate the effects of COVID - 19 and to improve the air quality in our schools.
- Rockcastle County Schools will continue to teach and reinforce proper hand washing protocols.
- Rockcastle County Schools will continue to limit visitors to schools. Buildings will only be open to essential personnel and to direct access providers/vendors.
- Rockcastle County Schools will continue to make hand sanitizer available across all educational settings including on school buses.
- Rockcastle County Schools will maintain COVID-19 cleaning protocols with a particular emphasis being placed on high touch surfaces.
- Rockcastle County Schools will continue to provide an isolation area for students and/or staff who are symptomatic for COVID-19. Individuals will be required to wear a mask while awaiting parent or guardian pickup
- Parents are requested to screen students before allowing them to leave for school and/or get on a school bus. It is essential that parents understand the necessity of screening students for COVID symptoms before allowing them to attend school.
  - Students with a temperature 100.4 should remain home and parents should contact their home school regarding the symptoms. Students should be symptom free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before being allowed to return to school.
- Rockcastle County Schools will continue to work with local officials to monitor community transmission and other factors that will guide any need to alter protocol. Any change in protocol will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the Rockcastle County Community as soon as possible.