



COVID-19 School Operations Plan*

January 10, 2022

Introduction:

The Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1 on September 9, 2021, during a Special Session called by Governor Andy Beshear. Senate Bill 1 requires all public school districts in the state of Kentucky to develop a COVID-19 Operations Plan. This plan addresses face mask requirements, quarantine procedures, Test to Stay program, non-traditional instruction (NTI) days, and remote learning. The goal of the Somerset Independent School District is to prioritize in-person learning for all students in the safest manner possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Somerset Independent Schools will focus on the following areas to prevent transmission of COVID-19:

- ✓ Social Distancing
- ✓ Face Coverings
- ✓ Contact Tracing, Quarantine, and Isolation
- ✓ Sanitation and Cleaning

Prevention Strategies to slow the spread of Covid-19 in schools:

Diagnostic Screening and Vaccination Efforts – Somerset Schools will work with Lake Cumberland Medical Associates and Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital for possible school mobile clinics for diagnostics and student/staff vaccination efforts. A staff vaccination event was held in the winter/spring of 2021 so that any staff member could receive the vaccine.

Face Masks – Somerset Schools have provided appropriate masks for all students and staff members. Starting on Monday, November 1, 2021, **face masks are optional, but highly recommended, in all school buildings and facilities within the Somerset Independent School System. Masks will be required on school transportation, such as a school bus, until there is a change in the federal mandate.** If a student has a medical or other applicable exemption that does not allow the student to wear a mask, the parent will need to bring a doctor's note to allow the student to go without a mask at school while masks are required inside school buildings.

Physical Distancing – All buildings in the Somerset Independent School District will maximize distance in classrooms and common areas. Preschool through second grade will utilize cohorts or pods during classroom instruction to help reduce the opportunity for transmission and aid in contact tracing. Each teacher will need to maximize social distancing in the classroom. Classroom seating needs to be designed in such a way so that students are separated as much as possible. The best practice is for all students to face the same direction, if possible. Cafeteria seating will have maximum distance between students as possible. The best practice is for students to not face each other at a table while eating. Tables will be marked indicating spaces for students to sit while eating.

Improving Ventilation - Each school facility has been provided air purification system components during the past school year. The district will place additional purification devices/systems as needed.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette – All Somerset students are scheduled to receive direct instruction in handwashing and respiratory etiquette that is appropriate to the age and grade level. Teachers and staff train and encourage students to wash their hands multiple times during each school day. The district purchased additional hand sanitizer for students and staff to use in times when soap and water handwashing is not available. The district placed handwashing instruction graphics near all sinks to remind students and staff proper handwashing techniques.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities – The district has a process in place in each of the buildings to clean and sanitize each of the classrooms and common spaces daily. High touch surfaces and areas are cleaned more often to help prevent transmission of germs from person to person. Teachers clean desks and other high touch surfaces between class changes.

Contact Tracing with Isolation and Quarantine –The district and school level administrators work together, with consultation of the local health department, to identify and communicate with students and families about the need for quarantine for individual students/groups. Each school will designate a “Sick Bay” or holding room [outside of the office area] for students with symptoms of an illness waiting to be taken home. To aid work with contact tracing, seating charts are kept in each classroom, bus, and cafeteria setting. Teachers need assigned seats in all classes and have a paper copy of all seating charts readily available. Teachers can change seating assignments, but seating charts **MUST** be updated and current. **Any individual testing positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate for 5 days from the onset of symptoms or the day of the test, if asymptomatic.**

Test to Stay- The district has adopted an option for on-site testing to permit non-symptomatic students or staff to remain at school if they test negative following an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case. The Test to Stay Program is voluntary and open to those who have been exposed and are not up-to-date with vaccines. The testing site will be at Central Office in the Conley Manning Conference Room, daily from 7:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. The close contact, who request to participate in the Test to Stay Program, will take a rapid COVID test daily for 5 consecutive school days. If the person tests negative, then they will stay at school and be expected to wear a mask. Students under the age of 18 will need a signed parent permission slip to participate in the Test to Stay Program. Any student or employee testing positive for COVID-19 will need to go home to isolate for at least 5 days and consult with his or her healthcare provider.

Instruction for Isolated or Quarantined Students-

A student in quarantine or isolation will be contacted by email and/or phone by each teacher to receive instructional materials while the he or she is out of the classroom. Students in grades 5-12 will use their Google Classroom. Teachers will provide paper/pencil assignments as necessary. Students in grades PK-4 will have paper/pencil assignments prepared by their homeroom teacher.

Quarantine Procedures

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>)

Calculating Quarantine: Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

<p>IF YOU Were exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT <u>up-to-date</u> on COVID-19 vaccinations</p>	<p>Quarantine for at least 5 days</p> <p>Stay home Stay home and <u>quarantine</u> for at least 5 full days. Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.</p> <p>-OR-</p> <p>Test to Stay Option</p> <p>If you have NO symptoms and choose to participate in the district's test to stay program, test each morning for five (5) consecutive school days. If the test is negative, you may participate in school activities. These individuals should wear a mask for 10 days as well.</p>	<p>After quarantine</p> <p>Watch for symptoms Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.</p> <p>If you develop symptoms</p> <p><u>Isolate</u> immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.</p>	<p>Take precautions until day 10</p> <p>Wear a mask <u>Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public.</u></p> <p>Avoid travel</p> <p>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</p>
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<p>IF YOU Were exposed to COVID-19 and ARE up-to-date with vaccination OR had a confirmed COVID-19 test within the past 90 days</p> <p>[If you have been boosted, or completed series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, or completed J& J vaccine within the last 2 months]</p>	<p>No quarantine</p> <p><u>You do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.</u></p>	<p>Watch for symptoms</p> <p>Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.</p> <p>If you develop symptoms</p> <p><u>Isolate</u> immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.</p>	<p>Take precautions until day 10</p> <p>Wear a mask <u>Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public.</u></p> <p>Avoid travel</p> <p>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</p>
<p>Calculating Isolation: Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.</p>			
<p>IF YOU Tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status</p>	<p>Stay home for at least 5 days</p> <p><u>Stay home for 5 days and isolate from others in your home.</u> Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.</p>	<p>Ending isolation if you had symptoms</p> <p><u>End isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.</u></p> <p>Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms</p> <p><u>End isolation after at least 5 full days</u> after your positive test.</p> <p>If symptoms persist You should isolate for at least 10 days. <u>Consult your doctor before ending isolation.</u></p>	<p>Take precautions until day 10</p> <p>Wear a mask <u>Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public.</u> Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.</p> <p>Avoid travel</p> <p>Avoid being around people who are at high risk</p>

Other items related to the Guidance for K-12 School Operations for In-Person Learning:

- ❖ The school administrator reviews non-essential visitors before being invited/allowed into the school building to reduce the number of outside persons.
- ❖ The district follows the KHSAA guidance for athletic groups and events.
- ❖ The district consults with the Lake Cumberland District Health Department to monitor local transmission and make necessary adjustments to implementation of additional transmission reducing strategies.
- ❖ All students and staff must wear masks while riding the school bus. On the bus, students are assigned seats and buses are sanitized daily.
- ❖ In classrooms, we discourage the sharing of items that are hard to clean or disinfect. Each student's material are marked and kept for their own use.
- ❖ All students in grades 3-12 are assigned an electronic device to use during the school day and/or use at home if there is a short-term or long-term closure.
- ❖ Field trips and large group activities are limited and must be approved by the principal.
- ❖ Each school has added extra people to help watch students during dismissal; this helps students stay socially distanced and keep their hands to themselves. Students at Hopkins and Meece remain in classrooms until their bus numbers have been called and are wearing masks while on the bus.

TRI - Temporary Remote Instruction (Short-term Classroom, Grade Level or School Closure):

Students in a classroom, grade or school may be assigned to remote instruction for the shortest time necessary. The SIS Board of Education gives authorization to the superintendent to temporarily assign students to remote instruction. The temporary assignment to remote instruction shall be no longer than is necessary to alleviate student and staff absences due to COVID-19. Students temporarily assigned to remote instruction shall receive at least the minimum daily instruction required pursuant to KRS 158.060, which shall include the content standards as provided in the Kentucky Academic Standards

NTI – Non-Traditional Instruction (Short-term District Closure):

The district has an approved NTI for 21-22 which allows for up to 10 days that count for instruction. Grades PK-4 will still need to prepare/complete packets since we are not 1:1 with technology in these grades. Teachers may need to video lessons to post or have “Google Meets” as necessary. Folders will be sent home with students and marked with lessons for NTI days. Grades 5-12 will be able to take Stream or Chrome Books home. Teachers may need to video lessons to post or have “Google Meet” meetings as necessary. For students without internet service, folders, with designated NTI lessons, will be sent home with students. Teachers using Google Classroom will be able to have students download assignments while at school then work

on them at home, even off-line. Then, the assignments can be uploaded when students return to school if they do not have internet services at home.

Staff Attendance for Remote Instruction or NTI:

When the school district implements a Temporary Remote Instruction or Non-Traditional Instruction day, all certified and classified staff will perform work duties on-site unless an employee has been approved to fulfill his or her job duties remotely.

***This plan can be modified at the discretion of the Superintendent.**