

ASHLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Updated Safe at School Guidelines

Effective January 13, 2022

In light of the recent CDC isolation and quarantine changes, the Kentucky Department of Public Health (KDPH) revised its recommendations for K-12 school operations for Kentucky schools. CDC and KDPH guidelines emphasize the implementation of layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, and staff which includes isolation of persons who test positive for COVID-19.

Mask Expectations & Social Distancing

- * All students and staff regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask. Masks are also mandated on school buses and district owned vehicles. Mask use will be implemented in all school sponsored sports and extra-curricular activities based on guidance from KHSAA and local health departments. AISD will social distance to the maximum extent the area will permit. Visitors will continue to be limited.



Screening at Home

- * Parents and guardians are requested to screen students before allowing them to leave for school and/or get on a 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 of 100.4 should remain home and parents should contact their child's school regarding the symptoms. Students should be symptom free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before being allowed to return to school. In addition to a fever, students should self-isolate for a new cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell.

Covid Positive Protocols

Ensure persons who test positive for COVID-19 even if vaccinated self-isolate away from school for:

- * 10 days from the day their symptoms started if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The first day of symptoms is considered day 0. The individual may return to school after 5 days if their symptoms are fully resolved or after 10 days if they have lingering symptoms. If the individual is unable to wear a mask properly and consistently in indoor school settings they should self isolate from school for the 10 full days.

- * Asymptomatic students isolate for 5 full days from the date of a positive test. The day of testing is considered day 0. If the individual develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate for 5 full days from the day that their symptoms started.
- * Students and staff that are unable to wear a mask properly and consistently in indoor school settings must self isolate from school for the 10 full days from the onset of symptoms.

Covid Contact Protocols

- * As a result of the Ashland Independent's Universal Masking Policy in all school buildings students will not need to quarantine if they are not experiencing symptoms. The close contact definition includes students who were less than 3 feet away from an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks.
- * Individuals of any age, exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 outside of school who have not completed the primary COVID-19 vaccine series more than 14 days prior to an exposure and do not have a documented positive PCR or antigen test in the prior 3 months should quarantine for 10 full days if they have no symptoms OR 5 days if they have no symptoms and test negative (PCR test) on or after day 5 of quarantine. If symptoms develop, get tested and stay home while awaiting test results.
- * The following individuals will not need to quarantine for exposure if symptom free:
 - * Persons 5-17 years of age who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series >14 days prior to an exposure.
 - * Persons 18 years of age and older who are up to date with the recommended COVID-19 vaccinations.
 - * Persons who have a documented COVID-19 illness or positive PCR COVID-19 test 3 months prior to an exposure.
- * However, it is recommended that close contacts be tested 5-7 days after a known exposure. Schools will notify families who are considered close contacts.

Cleaning and Sanitation

- * Staff will continue to teach and encourage proper handwashing techniques and respiratory (coughing/sneezing) hygiene practices for all students.
- * Hand sanitizer will be available for students and staff use.
- * Surfaces will be cleaned on a regular schedule.

At-Home Testing

- * Due to inconsistencies with COVID-19 "at-home" antigen test kits, which are not as sensitive and accurate to PCR COVID-19 tests, any individual who tests negative using an "at-home" test kit should self-isolate and obtain a PCR test from a medical provider or a testing site to confirm the test result. Positive test results using an "at-home" test kit will be accepted without confirmation from a PCR test.

