



Carter County Schools 2021-2022 School Operations Plan

Updated March 1, 2022

The information contained in this document is subject to change as the community incidence rate changes and guidance is received.

Evidence from the 2020-2021 school year suggests K-12 schools can safely open for in-person instruction when layered prevention strategies are implemented. Currently, all strategies are in place. Based on COVID-19 incidence in the community, strategies will be reviewed and may be adjusted/removed. Strategies in place are:

- When the district has a RED classification, masks will be **“highly-recommended”**, but not required, in Carter County School buildings, unless otherwise exempted (e.g., cannot wear a mask due to disability), regardless of vaccination status.
 - Mask wearing move from recommended to optional in buildings when the following average metrics are met during the preceding week:
 - Carter County has an “orange” classification as determined by the Kentucky Department of Public Health/CDC.
 - Less than 1% of faculty/student population is positive
 - Less than 2% of faculty/student population is in quarantine
 - Every Friday, announcements will be made about masking requirements for the following week.
- Masks are “highly recommended” on buses.
- Implementation of a COVID-19 screening program for students, teachers, staff and/or student groups to help identify and isolate cases and to guide the use of layered prevention strategies
- Continued emphasis on handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizer will be readily available on busses and in schools.
- Ensure sick students, teachers, or staff stay home if they have a fever and/or symptoms of Covid-19, including:
 - Fever or feeling feverish (e.g., chills, sweating)
 - New cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Ensure persons who test positive for COVID-19 self-isolate

- Direct sick persons to a health care provider to be tested and isolate at home until they receive their test result
- Collaborate with the Carter County Health Department to facilitate quarantine and contact tracing
- Emphasis on cleaning and disinfecting facilities and high-touch shared surfaces

Frequently Asked Questions

Schools are an essential part of community infrastructure and the return to in-person instruction for K-12 students is a priority.

1. What happens if someone in a school tests positive?

If an individual in a school tests positive for COVID-19, the individual will be required to self-isolate away from school for 5 days after the start of the illness (or testing date) or otherwise follow the direction of the local public health department. Upon return, the health department may require the use of a mask for 5 additional days.

2. Under what condition will my child be quarantined?

Unvaccinated individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 may be quarantined. A close contact is an **unmasked** student who was less than 3 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious.

Students that do not wear masks will have a greater likelihood of being quarantined due to close-contact exposure.

Exception: In the classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were 3 feet or greater away from an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks and other prevention strategies were in place.

3. How long does my child have to stay in quarantine and how are they released from quarantine?

Unvaccinated students who are identified as close contacts will be instructed to self-quarantine regardless of whether the exposure occurred within or outside of the school setting. Quarantine may be discontinued when the local health department determines the individual is safe to be around others or:

- After day 5 without testing if the individual is symptom-free
- Health department may require masking of students returning from isolation/quarantine.

Note: Fully-vaccinated persons, with no symptoms, do not need to quarantine following exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19, but are recommended to be tested 3-5 days after exposure.

4. How will I, as a parent, be notified that my child must isolate/quarantine?

The Carter County Health Department will notify parents/guardians if their child must isolate or quarantine.

5. What is the difference between being quarantined and being isolated?

If someone tests positive for COVID-19, they will be isolated. Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

6. If my child is isolated or quarantined, how does that affect his/her attendance?

As long as the student is engaged and submits required assignments, the absence will not count against the student. If a quarantined/isolated student does not engage or interact in a manner consistent with a continuation of learning plan developed by the district, he/she will be marked absent.

7. How will my quarantined child receive their classwork?

Isolated/quarantined students will receive their instruction/assignments through contact with an assigned teacher(s).