

COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education

Introduction

This framework provides metric-directed guidance to assist school officials in determining the mode of instruction (i.e., in person, virtual, or hybrid) in Kentucky schools during the COVID-19 pandemic when statewide test positivity is <6% (see at www.kycovid19.ky.gov) and healthcare resources are adequate to meet community needs. This guidance was created in partnership between the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

The framework empowers local leadership to make decisions based upon current community incidence rates at the county level as regularly published by KDPH. Specified mitigation measures are described for different levels of disease present within a county. When a county reaches the **red** (critical) level of disease activity, schools are advised to suspend in person school activities until the county returns to a lower level of disease activity. The decision to consider closing schools for in person activities in the **orange** level takes into account multiple factors such as:

- Importance of in person education to the social, emotional, and academic growth and well-being of students;
- Current level and rising/falling trend of community COVID-19 activity;
- Identification of cases among students and staff;
- Other public health indicators used to assess community COVID-19 impact; and
- Effective implementation of student and staff cohorting that enables quarantining cohorts, rather closing the entire school.

Definition of Colors

- **Green**: Counties in this status may have in person or remote learning.
- **Yellow**: Counties in this status may have in person learning with heightened mitigation factors or remote learning.
- **Orange**: Counties in this status must take additional mitigation steps and prepare for possible remote learning only as determined by school administrators in consultation with local public health officials.
- **Red**: No in person learning can occur. In the event a district reaches red status, they should immediately suspend in person learning for the following week.

Determination of school opening/closure for the following school week (Monday) should be determined by the color level of your county at 8 p.m. EST every Thursday as shown on the County Incidence Map found at www.kycovid19.ky.gov.

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GRID BELOW IN EFFECT IF STATE POSITIVITY RATE IS < 6%

GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
<p>Minimal Community Transmission "On Track" < 1 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>In Person or Remote Learning</i></p>	<p>Increased Community Transmission "Community Spread" >1 - 10 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>In Person or Remote Learning</i></p>	<p>Heightened Community Transmission "Accelerated" >10 - 25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>Consider Remote Learning ONLY</i></p>	<p>Substantial Community Transmission "Critical" >25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>Remote Learning ONLY</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) ➤ Encourage small group cohorts in classrooms for in person instruction to reduce transmission ➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities ➤ Adhere to Governor's current guidance regarding group gatherings (see Guidance and Requirements) ➤ Encourage the school community to actively continue COVID-19 safety guidelines ➤ Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities who are not from the local geographic area, e.g., community, town, city, county ➤ At any level, if an outbreak is determined by the LHD, guidance may be provided to close a classroom or individual school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) ➤ Encourage small student cohorts in classrooms for in person instruction to reduce transmission ➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities ➤ Adhere to Governor's current guidance regarding group gatherings (see Guidance and Requirements) ➤ Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders will coordinate additional mitigation needed ➤ Address with school community need to actively engage in heightened safety precautions to prevent ongoing cases or school closure ➤ At any level if an outbreak is determined by the LHD, guidance may be provided to close a classroom or individual school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assure highest level of best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) ➤ Consider requiring small student cohorts in classrooms for in person instruction to reduce transmission ➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities ➤ Adhere to Governor's current guidance regarding group gatherings (see Guidance and Requirements) ➤ Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders will collaborative to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities ➤ Encourage school community to aggressively engage in safety precautions to prevent ongoing increase in cases resulting in school closure ➤ If the decision is made to move to remote learning, schools may at their own discretion bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services that supplements learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Essential staff entering facility, must practice best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation as per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) ➤ Suspend in person instruction activities until a lower level is achieved at a future weekly decision point ➤ Activate remote learning ➤ Continue essential student support services including meals, student engagement and special education services ➤ Schools may at their own discretion bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services that supplements learning ➤ Community must return to Orange, Yellow, or Green Level at a future weekly checkpoint before resuming in person learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA (see COVID-19 Fall Resumption Documents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA (see COVID-19 Fall Resumption Documents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA (see COVID-19 Fall Resumption Documents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suspend all school-related athletic (per KHSAA guidance) and extracurricular activities