

2021-2022 District Health Coordinator Conference Q and A

September 15, 2021



Q. Will routine screenings such as hearing/vision be required this year?

A. Mass screenings are not recommended when COVID-19 cases are so high. Screenings should be completed on a case by case basis for students with concerns or as needed for special education purposes. It might be a good idea to let the staff know that we are not doing the routine screening and to be alert to any individual student who might need to be tested. KDE and DPH will re-evaluate next semester.

Q. How do you recommend schools handle quarantine with their limited nursing staff when there is no assistance provided by the local health dept.?

A. Per Dr. White, staff is limited across the state, you are one person and there may be students that you cannot reach. Triage and contact the most vulnerable first. Districts can choose to use ESSER funds to hire additional staff to assist with COVID-19 response.

Q. What needs to be included in the school's COVID-19 operation plan mentioned in section 3 of Senate Bill 1 overview? When is the deadline for posting on the school's website?

A. Many districts have already developed a plan to receive ESSER funds (Re-entry and Continuation of Services Plan). If you have already done one of those, you can use that as your operations plan, and it should be already posted on your district website. KDE has asked districts to complete the questionnaire that was provided and displayed at the last superintendent webcast. Your superintendent and finance officers will have access to that questionnaire and will be making any updates or changes as necessary.

Q. Will the immunization survey be pushed back again this year?

A. Not currently. If it appears that districts need more time, the immunization program will re-evaluate the timeline.

Q. Best Nursing Practice in dealing with COVID-19?

A. Continue to use the mitigation strategies that were implemented in last year's Healthy at Schools Document. Layered mitigation is the best response.

Q. Will the COVID-19 vaccine be added to the Immunization Certificates?

A. No, it would take a change in regulation by the legislature to do so. There are no plans to do so currently. There were instructions sent out on how to access a vaccine record for COVID-19 available in the KYIR.

Q. Where can we find in depth the information on the Test to Stay program?

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A. The Kentucky Department of Public Health has developed guidance on development of a Test to Stay, or “modified quarantine” program. It can be found [here](#).

Q. For the HPV on Immunization report for this year, will we be reporting 7th & 11th gr only...or will we also be reporting 12th gr, too?

A. Per the KY Immunization Program, school nurses/administration are only required to report for Kindergarten, Seventh, and Eleventh. Required vaccines should also remain the same (DTap, Tdap, HepB, HepA, Meningococcal, MMR, Polio, and Varicella).

Q. Do you know if employees of private or parochial schools are eligible for the KDE Vaccine Incentive Program for employees?

A. The KDE Vaccine Incentive Program is only available to public school employees.

Q. Do districts need to complete and submit a form to participate in the vaccine incentive program? If so, how can I access this?

A. There is no form that is needed to start the process. There are timelines that need to be followed but your superintendent will complete an assurance document that you validate and verified that the staff met the requirements, etc. They will submit this along with a request for re-imbursement of funds. Also, we are encouraging districts to match this amount. If you do so, you may need to have approval by your school board if your superintendent does not have the authority to allocate the funds.

Q. Regarding the nebulizer treatments in the school. Recommendation is for the provider to be wearing an N-95 mask, but we don't have a fit test program in our schools since outside of a pandemic we would not have a need for this. What are your recommendations then? We did not purchase N-95's for the staff mainly as to not take away from supplies needed in the acute setting.

A. Best practice recommends all school nurses should be wearing N-95 masks as well as goggles or eye shields. Your local health department should be able to assist you with getting the masks as well as getting them fit tested.

Q. Are you suggesting we have a seating chart for lunchrooms?

A. Yes, seating charts are an important part of the contact tracing process. Seating charts for classrooms as well as buses are also needed.



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Q. With the Test to Stay program, are there specific laboratories that are in coordination with Kentucky to provide the service?

A. Yes, a list of participating lab providers can be found on DPH's [K-12 School COVID Testing Program webpage](#).