



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Date Issued: Dec. 14, 2020



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

This framework provides guidance utilizing multiple metrics to help school officials determine the mode of instruction (i.e., in person, virtual, or hybrid) in Kentucky schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance was created in partnership between the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

The baseline mitigation strategies in the flagship document, [Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools \(K-12\)](#) must be followed in all school settings. Remote learning options must be available for all appropriate classes to all learners, regardless of the county status. Remote learning must be available in a manner that does not disadvantage remote students in terms of grade point average, class rank, graduation requirements, college credit, or other manners.

Additionally, meaningful accommodations must be made for all school personnel at elevated risk for adverse harm from COVID-19 infection.

This framework empowers local leadership to make decisions based on county incidence rates as published daily by KDPH on the kycovid19.ky.gov website. Specified mitigation measures are described for different levels of disease present within a county. Schools are encouraged to develop hybrid models of learning as necessary to decrease the volume of students physically present in school facilities to fully comply with the KDE flagship document. When disease is widespread, consideration of more aggressive hybrid or closing schools for in person activities at **red** or **orange** levels reflects multiple factors such as:

- Importance of in person education to the social, emotional, and academic growth and well-being of students and school personnel;
- 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, such as local healthcare capacity; 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 or remote learning.
- **Orange**: Counties in this status should take additional mitigation steps, implement a hybrid model to reduce volume of individuals physically present in school facilities, and consult with local public health officials and other community leaders to slow spread of disease.
- **Red**: Counties in this status should fully implement a hybrid model that further reduces the volume of individuals physically present in school facilities, consider suspension of activities at highest risk of disease transmission and prepare for possible remote learning and instruction only in consultation with local public health officials.



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| 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>Hybrid or Remote Learning</i></p> | <p>Substantial Community Transmission “Critical” >25 CASES/100,000 PEOPLE DAILY <i>More Aggressive Hybrid; Consider Remote Learning</i></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation 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 ➤ 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 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 ➤ 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 per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) ➤ Consider implementing a hybrid learning model that reduces the volume of students and educators in school facilities. ➤ Cancel field trips/assemblies or other large group activities ➤ Adhere to Governor’s current guidance regarding group gatherings ➤ Local officials, school administrators and public health leaders should collaborate to implement aggressive mitigation measures both in schools and in communities ➤ Encourage school community to aggressively engage in safety precautions to prevent increase in cases resulting in school closure ➤ If the decision is made to move to remote learning, schools may bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services that supplements learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All students and staff entering facility must practice best health practices for social distancing, mask use, handwashing, and sanitation per Healthy At Schools Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) ➤ Implement more aggressive hybrid model to further reduce volume of students and educators in school facilities ➤ Consider suspension of in person instruction activities until a lower level is achieved at a future weekly decision point ➤ If classes are suspended, activate remote learning for all learners ➤ If classes are suspended, continue essential student support services including meals, student engagement and special education service ➤ Community-wide meetings are encouraged to fully engage all leaders and citizens to halt disease spread and return the community to Orange, Yellow, or Green Level at a future weekly checkpoint to maintain in person learning |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Athletic activities allowed per KHSAA guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consistent with above, consider suspending school related athletic and extracurricular activities |