

Anchorage Independent School District

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

2021-2022

These guidelines will be followed to launch the 2021-2022 school year based upon recommendations by the Kentucky Department of Health, the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness, the Kentucky Department of Education, and feedback received by local stakeholders. Changes to this plan that are made throughout the 2021-2022 school year will be announced via our School News email and can be found within this document with a notation in red text of the date the change went into effect.

LAYERS OF PREVENTION

Face Coverings

Masks/face coverings will be required of all individuals inside buildings on the school campus, inside buildings when on a school trip, and when traveling on a bus during a school trip, except for those individuals meeting one or more of the following exemptions:

- Children who are under age two (2);
- Any person with a disability whose disability prevents the person from safely wearing a face covering, or any person with a physical or mental impairment with an approved AISD Medical Face Covering/Mask Waiver on file and documented by a medical professional as preventing the person from safely wearing a face covering;
- Any person who is deaf or hard of hearing, with an approved AISD Medical Face Covering/Mask Waiver and that is actively communicating, or any person who is actively communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, and is able to maintain a distance of six (6) feet from all individuals who are not members of the person's household;
- Any person engaged in work that a state or federal regulator has concluded would make wearing a face covering a risk to their health or safety;
- Any person who is seated at least 6' from other individuals and is actively consuming food or beverage during a scheduled snack or lunch time;
- Any person who is obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering in order to perform the service;
- Any person who is required to temporarily remove the face covering to confirm their identity for security or screening purposes;
- Any person who is giving a speech or broadcast to an audience and is able to maintain a distance of six (6) feet from all individuals who are not members of the person's household;
- Any person who is actively engaged in exercise.*
 - *During the school day, indoor exercise must include 6' spacing between all individuals for masks to be removed.
- Any person who is engaged in a lawful activity where federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering;

- Any person who is sleeping or unconscious, or who cannot otherwise remove the face covering on their own; or
- Any person who is in an enclosed room and no other individuals are located inside the enclosed room, other than individuals who are members of the person's household (Updated 8/26/2021)

Face masks will be available to students, staff and visitors upon request

Social Distancing

- When possible, staff and students will remain three feet or more apart in classrooms and other indoor school settings
- Continue to utilize outdoor learning spaces
- Utilize student cohorts upon student arrival
- In common areas, such as the cafeteria or auditorium, assigned seating/grouping will be used to support Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) contact tracing
- When eating indoors, students will remain six feet or more apart

Hand Hygiene

- Students will learn about proper hand washing and visual cues promoting effective hand washing will be posted in restrooms
- Staff and students will have ample opportunity to wash their hands throughout the school day
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the school

Cleaning

Anchorage Public School (APS) will:

- Follow a daily cleaning schedule for routine cleaning, including disinfecting classrooms and common areas with electrostatic spraying technology each evening
- Clean high-touch surfaces and objects frequently
- Limit sharing of high-touch objects to the extent possible, with efforts to disinfect shared items regularly
- Sanitize desk surfaces frequently
- Disinfect Nurse's Office and/or classroom and common areas when a staff member or student occupying the space(s) has fallen ill or been identified as having been in contact with a COVID-positive individual

Ventilation and Air Quality

AISD began work to improve air quality prior to the pandemic and has aggressively continued work toward that effort. In 2021, AISD performed many HVAC improvements across the district including:

- Upgrade to MERV-8 HVAC filters - replaced three times per year
- Replacement and upgrade of select HVAC units to improve indoor air quality

AISD will continue these strategies during the upcoming school year, with additional HVAC unit replacements taking place during summer, 2021 and scheduled for late winter, 2021

Drinking Fountains

- Touchless bottle-filling stations will be utilized in lieu of water fountains that have been disabled
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water/water bottles
- Disposable cups will be available to students that do not have a personal water bottle

HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES

Practices to Promote a Healthy School Environment

APS will:

- Require parents to attest on a Wellness Affidavit that they will keep their students at home if their student has 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
- Require staff to attest on a Wellness Affidavit that they will stay home if they have 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
- Have thermal scan thermometers readily available should someone want to check their temperature upon arrival or during the school day
- Continue wearing PPE as needed when caring for students and staff
- Follow current CDC guidance related to infection control in cleaning and disinfecting the Nurse's Office

- Offer periodic voluntary on-site screening testing and vaccination opportunities for staff and students (with parent permission)

Isolation & Quarantine Procedures

APS will:

- Require parents to notify the school within twenty-four hours following the positive diagnosis of the virus that causes COVID-19, per Kentucky Regulatory Statute (KRS) 158.160
- Isolate those who are potentially infectious in our comfortable Nurse's Annex, or other supervised isolation areas as warranted, until they can be transported home
- Encourage COVID-19 testing or evaluation for COVID-19 infection if symptoms are suspicious for COVID-19
- Send a Reach Alert to all subscribers if an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and was on campus during their suspected contagious period
- Report positive cases to Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW)
- Follow LMPHW contact-tracing procedures for schools and assist them to the extent possible in their determination of whether a student has experienced close, sustained contact with a positive individual
- To the extent possible, report vaccination status and prior COVID-19 infection history of exposed individuals to LMPHW

PROCEDURAL CHANGES

Food Services

APS will:

- Practice hand hygiene before/after meals
- Use disposable food-service items when possible
- Use assigned seating/groupings to facilitate LMPHW contact tracing
- Clean and sanitize chairs and tables before and between student lunches
- Continue to maintain 6' spacing, utilizing our cafeteria, small gym and outdoor areas in order to accommodate lunch shifts
- Offer free lunch for all APS students through a nationwide federal school meal program designed to mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 on families

School Events/Sports/Community Events at APS

APS will:

- Resume school events (Updated 8/4/21)
- Follow all KHSAA health/safety-related requirements

- Offer periodic voluntary on-site screening testing opportunities for sponsors, coaches and participants (with parent permission)
- Display signage at indoor event entrances that outlines instructions related to COVID-19 (Updated 8/4/21)
- Limit concessions to individually-wrapped items

Facility Usage Requests (Updated 8/4/21)

- Until further notice, indoor building rental and usage will be limited to school-affiliated groups and residents of the Anchorage community and subject to superintendent approval
- Adult Anchorage resident groups renting indoor school facility spaces (gymnasium and auditorium) must agree to report any participant COVID-19 infections to APS (Updated 8/4/21)

Visitors/Presenters During the School Day

- Academic volunteers/presenters (Junior Greatbooks, Art Discovery, mystery readers, etc.), performing volunteer services indoors, will be admitted. (Updated 8/26/2021)
- With superintendent or principal approval, visitors will be admitted for events such as walking new students to class during their first week of school, attending student performances, and attending committee or other school meetings. Lunch visit restrictions remain in place due to students being unmasked during that time. (Updated 8/4/21)