**1 |** Hazard Independent Schools

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**Sondra Combs, Superintendent**

The Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1 on September 9, 2021, during a Special Session called by Governor Andy Beshear. Senate Bill 1 requires all public-school districts in the state of Kentucky to develop a COVID-19 Operations Plan. This plan addresses face mask requirements, quarantine procedures, Test to Stay, non-traditional instruction (NTI) days, and remote learning. The goal of the Kentucky General Assembly and the Hazard Independent School District is to prioritize in-person learning for all students in the safest manner possible during the Pandemic. FACE MASKS INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Hazard Independent Schools will no longer require masks to be worn in schools, facilities or school buses while following the community levels for our county. Our district will attempt to follow CDC guidelines for this protocol. This requirement will only be used when appropriate to provide the most protection for our students, staff, and community. Our district will stay in close communication with KDE and Department of Local Health to evaluate the local conditions and adjust as needed. As decisions are made surrounding COVID-19, the continuation plan will be adjusted, and these plans will be communicated to all stakeholders.

Students who are quarantined from school will participate in remote learning. These students’ absences from school will be excused. Communication with a child’s school is vitally important to keeping in-person learning an option.

 If the face covering requirement is in effect, any close contact with a positive COVID 19 case, those who are exposed (by CDC Guidelines) will be notified and asked to monitor for symptoms for 5 days. If symptoms develop, for a close contact he/she will need to quarantine and work with his/her healthcare provider whether fully vaccinated or not.

The school district is planning on continuing the protocols for Test To Stay Program for quarantined students and staff. Under this program, students and staff members who are quarantined will have the option of taking a rapid antigen COVID-19 test each day to potentially eliminate the need to quarantine. Students and staff members testing negative will be able to attend school/work that day. A parent/guardian will be responsible for bringing his/her child to the to school for the day if he/she tests negative for the virus. Any student and/or employee testing positive for COVID-19 will need to go home and consult with his/her healthcare provider. This process will take place each day of the quarantine period (5 school days). The Test to Stay program is voluntary. Quarantined students and/or staff will still have the option of quarantining at home. N-TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION (NTI) DAYS

The Kentucky General Assembly provides public school districts up to 10 NTI Days annually. NTI days can only be utilized when the district closes all schools in the district. NTI Days can be for health and safety reasons if the district needs to close all schools. A decision about NTI will be communicated clearly to all students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members. RETE LEARNING DAYS

Hazard Independent will attempt to follow the Guidance for K-12 School Operations for In-Person Learning: Layered Prevention Strategies and COVID-19 Community Levels protocols. The link to the guidance is <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/K-12Guidance.pdf> .

**HAZARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN FOR 2022-2023 (updated)**

We are pleased to return to in-person school. We will follow the regular calendar. Please keep in mind that our plans can change quickly.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The health and safety of our students and staff continues to be our top priority and we will attempt to follow guidelines set forth by the Kentucky Department of Education, the Department of Public Health, the Governor’s Office, and the CDC. Students will return to in-person classes five days a week. There is no virtual option at this time.

* Upon arrival, students will report to breakfast and then report to classrooms, where they will be supervised by staff.
* Proper hand hygiene will be encouraged, and hand sanitizer will be readily aviable throughout each classroom and buildings.
* Aerus air purification systems, with Active pure technology, have been placed in every room in the district. These systems are FDA compliant and destroys 99% of all surface and airborne contaminants (including COVID). The ActivePure technology disinfection system is supposed to be the safest, fastest, and most powerful surface and air-purification technology aviable that minimizes recontamination and cross contamination in real time without the use of chemicals.
* All facilities will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times throughout the day.
* Students will be allowed to have meals in the cafeteria. The cafeteria will be cleaned between groups.

Each school will have a designated area for isolation of sick students supervised by adults until a parent/guardian can pick the student up. We ask that if a child is exhibiting symptoms, please do not send them to school.

**TRAUMA INFORMED CARE**

The Hazard Independent School District began transforming into a trauma-informed school district working closely with Kentucky River Community Care and Trauma-Informed Practices for Educators and School Personnel Learning Collaborative for the Eastern Kentucky region for trainings and resources. The resources are designed to enable Hazard to utilize a systematic trauma informed practice but informing key organizational domains that include: -Leadership, - policy, -finance, - safety, -continuous improvement, - student supports, - and staff supports. Staff have received and will continue to receive professional development. Student learning will be enhanced by systematic, trauma-informed practices and policies utilized by all staff to improve each students’ sense of safety, caring, and belonging by the entire school community.

**ACADEMICS AND LEARNING GAPS**

We are excited to get students back in the classroom five days a week. We will focus on learning acceleration, which is a process for teachers to engage in formative practices to improve students’ access to and mastery of grade level content. We will be conducting assessments to address academic needs and learning gaps and scaffold as needed. We have hired learning loss staff that will be placed through the district to address learning loss and accelerate learning. Classroom teachers and learning loss staff will use the date to create lessons that address student needs daily. We will provide a learning environment that will foster the social and emotional well-being of students, families, and educators. We will improve equitable access to grade level content and high-quality resources for each student. We will focus on deeper learning rather than pace. Each school will also offer a more extensive after school tutoring program to give students more time to work directly on learning gaps. We will also offer sessions for students during fall and winter breaks and during the summer. We will work to ensure that all students have access to high quality instruction.

**CONCLUSION**

We are looking forward to continuing in-person school. We will stay in contact with our local health department, KDE, and the CDC to ensure we are following appropriate procedures to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. We will be flexible and ready to make changes as necessary and as advised. In the coming weeks, we will work to ensure that all procedures and protocols are in place and ready for the arrival of students. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact your child’s school or the central office at 606-436-3911.