

# Daviess County Public Schools March 22, 2021 Re-Entry Plan

Updated: February 24, 2021



DCPS Superintendent Matt Robbins

Daviess County Public Schools (DCPS) plan to return **K-12 students** to full in-person learning beginning on Monday, March 22, 2021. Students choosing the in-person option will attend classes all five days each week.

As a choice for parents, DCPS will continue to provide the **Virtual Academy**. Parents/guardians who wish to transfer their child to the Virtual Academy for the final nine weeks should send an email with the student's name, school and grade, and parent/guardian contact information to [dcpsVArequest@daviess.kyschools.us](mailto:dcpsVArequest@daviess.kyschools.us) by Monday, March 8. A form will be emailed to all DCPS families on Friday, Feb. 26, providing an opportunity for parents whose children currently attend Virtual Academy but who now wish to transfer to in-person/five-day-a-week learning to request that transfer by Monday, March 8. Requests for transfers will not be accepted after March 8. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Students will remain in their requested program (Virtual Academy or In-Person Learning) for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

**DCPS Preschool** students will remain on their current schedule (attending in-person one day a week) because of a continued shortage of school bus drivers. We hope to be able to resume our regular schedule for preschoolers as soon as possible. Parents of children enrolled in preschool should watch for a follow-up communication with specific information for their family.

### **Supporting Factors**

- This plan allows us to begin the final nine-week instructional period for DCPS students with all students assigned to the schedule selected by their parent/guardian.
- In-Person Learning is essential to *Accelerate Learning* among our DCPS students.
- In-Person Learning allows us to support mental health, social development and the emotional well-being of students.
- Both families and staff are now provided with “choice options.” Families may choose In-Person Learning or Virtual Academy for their children. Staff may choose to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.
- The Centers for Disease Control supports a return to school with appropriate health and safety measures implemented.
- Community spread has shown a continued downward trend in Daviess County, Kentucky, and the United States.
- The availability of the COVID-19 vaccine continues to increase in our community.
- **We miss our students and they need us!**

**NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:** Plans are for Mr. Robbins to share the suggested learning plan at the special called Board of Education meeting at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021. The public may view the meeting on the district YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DCPSTV/live>

**While returning to full, in-person learning, Daviess County Public Schools will continue to follow Kentucky's *Healthy at School* Guidelines:**

- Parents will daily pre-screen their children at home for Covid-related symptoms.
- COVID-19 screening procedures will continue, with temperature checks being implemented within the first hour of the school day.
- Masks will continue to be required in school buildings at all times (except when eating/drinking).
- Social distancing will continue to the greatest extent possible. Classroom configurations and occupancy will be a factor. Distancing will fluctuate as a result of higher attendance of students in person, and will be less achievable from elementary to middle to high school levels.
- Breakfast/lunch periods also maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible and may include meals eaten in alternative spaces.
- Bus riders will maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible, with children from the same household sitting together.
- Cleaning and sanitizing of desks and shared surfaces will continue throughout the school day, with deep cleaning and disinfecting of buildings each night.
- Frequent hand washing will continue to be emphasized throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will remain available throughout the day.
- Seating charts and rosters (buses, classrooms and mealtimes) will be maintained to assist with contact tracing if necessary.
- Schools will remain closed to visitors.
- There will be no large assemblies, field trips etc. until further notice.

DCPS will continue to track and monitor COVID-19 data within our district, including the number of cases and quarantines due to exposure. If it is determined that schools need to return to the A-B Schedule or remote learning, we will notify families immediately.

In addition, it may become necessary for classrooms or schools to move to remote learning for brief periods of time due to the number of individuals in quarantine and/or testing positive within that classroom or school. The CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days, but the following options are acceptable alternatives:

- Return to school after 10 days without testing if no symptoms are present
- **OR** return after day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later) and no symptoms are present
- Following quarantine, individuals should continue to watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately self-isolate and contact a healthcare provider

DCPS is fortunate to have a highly trained staff of nurses who provide daily health functions, such as the delivery of medications, first aid, triage etc. and can refer families and staff to community resources for rapid tests. DCPS school health professionals will continue to lead efforts of contact tracing and parent/caregiver exposure notification. The district follows testing and protocol guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and the Green River District Health Department.

All school district employees have been offered the choice to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1B of Kentucky's vaccination plan. Through local partnerships with Walmart and Owensboro Health, the majority of school employees will begin receiving second doses of the vaccine the first two weekends in March. Staff members who did not or could not receive the vaccination during the first round are being given the opportunity to participate in a second round of vaccinations. It is important to note that receiving both doses of the vaccine does not change CDC recommended guidelines at this time regarding masking or social distancing, but does end the need for quarantining (providing staff remain asymptomatic).

**March 2021 Schedule:**

Because of the greater likelihood of post-vaccine symptoms associated with the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, DCPS must modify our instructional plans to accommodate the possibility of staff members being unable to work in the days following the second dose. Our staff is scheduled to receive the second dose of the vaccine on March 5, 6, 7 and on March 12, 13, 14. Friday, March 5 and Friday, March 12 will be “closed days,” including closure of the Virtual Academy. Monday, March 8 and Monday, March 15 will be NTI Days with no in-person classes. Finally, Friday, March 19 will be a Staff Prep Day to allow time for teachers/administrators/staff to make necessary adaptations for all students arriving in-person on Monday, March 22.

To accommodate these events and to maximize the number of in-person learning days for students, DCPS has extended the school year to Thursday, May 27, as the last day of school for students.

A calendar illustrating the instructional schedule for the month of March is attached.

We are looking forward to completing the staff vaccination schedule and transitioning to full in-person learning beginning Monday, March 22. We appreciate the “Kids First” spirit that has been demonstrated by every member of the DCPS team - students, families, staff and community - throughout even the most challenging moments of this unprecedented experience.



# March 2021

## Instructional Schedule for DCPS Students

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Virtual Academy remains on regular schedule every day except March 5, 12 and 19 (no classes)	1 Group A: In Person Group B: Hybrid	2 Group A: In Person Group B: Hybrid	3 Group A: Hybrid Group B: In Person	4 Group A: Hybrid Group B: In Person	5 NO SCHOOL (Professional Day/ Staff Vaccinations)	6
7	8 Group A: NTI Group B: NTI (School will provide schedule)	9 Group A: In Person Group B: Hybrid	10 Group A: NTI Group B: NTI (School will provide schedule)	11 Group A: Hybrid Group B: In Person	12 NO SCHOOL (Professional Day/ Staff Vaccinations)	13
14	15 Group A: NTI Group B: NTI (School will provide schedule)	16 Group A: In Person Group B: Hybrid	17 Group A: NTI Group B: NTI (School will provide schedule)	18 Group A: Hybrid Group B: In Person	19 NO SCHOOL (Staff Prep Day)	20
21	22 DCPS K-12 Students return to in person learning (Virtual Academy continues)	23 In Person Learning	24 In Person Learning	25 In Person Learning	26 In Person Learning	27
28	29 In Person Learning	30 In Person Learning	31 In Person Learning	April 1 In Person Learning	April 2 In Person Learning	April 3
April 4	April 5 SPRING BREAK	April 6 SPRING BREAK	April 7 SPRING BREAK	April 8 SPRING BREAK	April 9 SPRING BREAK	April 10

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR DCPS STUDENTS – THURSDAY, MAY 27**