



Kewanee Community Unit School District #229
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“Striving for Excellence in Education”



Kewanee CUSD 229 2021-22 Return to Learn Plan
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Introduction:

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, the Kewanee Community Unit School District 229 has been working with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Bureau, Henry, & Stark Counties Regional Office of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Henry and Stark County Health Department, and the Office of Emergency Management of Henry County to explore all ways possible to provide education and support for District students and staff. All staff have had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The District website, kcud229.org, contains current information related to COVID-19 as released by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Kewanee Community Unit School District 229 students experienced the following learning environments during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years:

- March 2020-May 2021, full remote Pre-K through 12th grade
- August 2021-March 2021, hybrid learning (3 days remote, two days in person) Pre-K through 12th grade
- March 2021-May 2021, hybrid learning (1 day remote, four days in person) K through 12th grade

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, the District has implemented numerous strategies to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. These have included, but are not limited to,

- Ensuring proper hand washing among students and staff.
- Ensuring access to hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Increasing in building cleaning procedures.
- Increasing sanitation of the building surfaces with the use of electrostatic sprayers.
- Limiting the sharing of resources/supplies among students.
- Maintaining social distancing in classrooms and common areas to the greatest extent possible.
- Grouping (cohorting) of students when possible.
- Ensuring proper universal masking among all students, staff and visitors.
- Providing free masks to students and staff.
- Increasing social distancing among students while eating.
- Requiring masking on buses, reducing bus capacity and increased ventilation.
- Limiting usage of playground equipment and sanitizing playground equipment.
- Utilizing a Hybrid Learning environment to reduce class size.
- Utilizing four day per week in-person schedule
- Shortening in-person school day
- Following IHSA/IESA rules concerning student athletes and fans.
- Modifying extracurricular activities to ensure adherence to IDPH safety guidelines.

- Holding “individual” Graduation Ceremonies for KHS 2020 Graduates.
- Utilizing outdoor venues for KHS Graduation and Central 8th Grade Promotion.
- Modifying meeting areas for students, staff and the public to ensure social distancing.
- Limiting water fountains to bottle filling only.
- Implementing daily symptom screening for students and staff.
- Increasing the number of nurses to symptom screen students.
- Working cooperatively with the Henry & Stark County Health Department to assist with contact tracing.
- Utilizing adaptive pauses (temporary transitions to fully remote learning) with advisement from the Henry County Health Department due to rising community positivity rates.
- Ensuring all school nurses were properly trained by the Office of Emergency Management to provide Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing on students (with parent consent) and staff.
- Hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics on school property.
- Providing transportation to COVID-19 vaccination clinics held at Black Hawk East Campus.

On July 9, 2021 the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) fully adopted the Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated guidance for schools to start the 2021-2022 school year. The CDC stated that students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall of 2021 is a priority. Therefore, KCUD 229 stakeholders have worked to modify our March 2021 Return to Learn Plan to reflect this updated guidance.

Disclaimer:

Because of the fluidity of the COVID-19 virus, this plan is a flexible document that can be changed to meet new guidelines.

Changes to School Days:

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala has stated that, “beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/10-30](#) and [105 ILCS 5/34-18.66](#), remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

Therefore, KCUD 229 will be fully opened for in-person learning and regular dismissal times for all PreK-12 students for the 2021-2022 school year. Remote instruction will only be made available to students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Assignments will be made available to students in quarantine via Google Classroom and will fall under each school’s policy for make-up work due to a medically excused absence.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pre-K-12th	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person

Food Service

The free lunch program through the USDA has been extended for all students for the 2021-22 school year. Grab-and-go meals for students in quarantine will be available for pick up at Kewanee High School, Central School, and Neponset Grade School.

General Health and Safety Guidelines

KCUD 229 will continue to follow the latest guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Bureau, Henry, & Stark Counties Regional Office of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Henry and Stark County Health Department, and the Office of Emergency Management of Henry County. Pursuant to the most recent IDPH guidelines, *Revised Public Health Guidance Schools (February 5, 2022)* KCUD 229 will implement the following COVID-19 mitigation strategies for returning to learn in the remaining 2021-2022 school year.

Vaccination

Students and staff are encouraged, but not required, to report their COVID-19 vaccination status to the appropriate District school nurse. Students and staff who do not have proof of COVID-19 vaccination on file with the school district shall be considered unvaccinated.

The District will continue to support staff and students who wish to receive COVID-19 vaccination by partnering with the Bureau, Henry, & Stark Counties Regional Office of Education, the Henry and Stark County Health Department, and the Office of Emergency Management of Henry County to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provide vaccination information to the community.

Social & Physical Distancing

Per Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the District will utilize 3 feet social distancing procedures to the greatest extent possible, including furniture arrangement and social distancing signage. Physical distancing measures will be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking.

Staff and students should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc.

PPE and Face Coverings

- Mask use is recommended for students, staff, and visitors in all KCUD 229 buildings. The District supports any staff or student who wishes to continue to wear a face mask for health and safety reasons.
- Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses. Masks must also be worn while travelling to and from school events (regardless of the type of school vehicle).
- It is recommended that cafeteria servers wear masks.

Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff members must clean hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may

be used. Students and Staff must avoid touching their mouth, eyes, or nose as much as possible. Hand sanitizer will be placed in classrooms and common areas throughout each building. Each building will place signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing, or sanitizing must be done before and after contact with students. It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school.

IDPH Guidance

The District will continue to follow the most up-to-date IDPH COVID-19 guidance.

Lockers

Individual building/classroom locker use will be utilized as needed.

Backpacks

Students in grades 7-12 will be allowed to carry books/materials in backpacks. Backpacks will be stored in individual classrooms based upon classroom spatial capacity.

Health Screenings

Staff are encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. If staff answer “Yes” to any of the following questions, they should contact the school nurse or their health care provider before reporting to work. The questions asked of staff are:

1. Have you or anyone in the household experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 72 hours (fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, loss of taste or smell or other respiratory problem)?
2. Have you or anyone in your household been in close contact with or cared for someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
3. Has the employee taken any fever reducing medication within the last 24 hours in order to alleviate a fever?
4. Has the employee had a temperature greater or equal to 100.4 Fahrenheit within the last 72 hours?

Parents are encouraged to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms. If the student answers “Yes” to any of the following questions, the parent should contact the school nurse or their health care provider before reporting to school. The questions asked of students are:

1. Have you or anyone in the household experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 72 hours (fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, loss of taste or smell or other respiratory problem)?
2. Have you or anyone in your household been in close contact with or cared for someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
3. Has the student taken any fever reducing medication within the last 24 hours in order to alleviate a fever?
4. Has the student had a temperature greater or equal to 100.4 Fahrenheit within the last 72 hours?

Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their building principal for assistance.

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their building principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

Social Emotional Needs

Counselors will contact students and families to determine individual needs. Counselors will work with social workers to ensure that all students' needs are being met.

Visitors

Nonessential visitors are discouraged.

Open Houses and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Masking is recommended for all students, parents, and staff during open houses and parent-teacher conferences.

Spectators

Masks are recommended for individuals attending athletic or extracurricular activities.

General Building Cleaning and Ventilation

The custodial staff will be cleaning commonly touched surfaces on a regular basis. Cafeteria staff will be cleaning the kitchen area on a regular basis. Specialized equipment will continue to be utilized to help clean and sanitize the buses and buildings. The Great Dane Strength Training Center (KHS) will continue to be cleaned by staff and participants.

The District will continue to examine expanding classroom/common spaces throughout the District in order to help maintain 3-6 feet social distancing. In addition, the District will continue to improve ventilation in cafeteria and gym areas through updated heating and cooling systems. The District will explore utilizing funds to increase ventilation and improve the air quality in classroom and common spaces. Sources of revenue for these projects will be comprised of federal, state, and local funds.

Busing

Everyone on the bus will be required to wear a mask. Weather permitting, all windows will be lowered to the appropriate level to allow for increased ventilation.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)/Henry & Stark County Health Department/Henry County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

When assessing the health and welfare of students and staff, the District will follow IDPH guidelines. Locally, the Henry & Stark County Health Department will be providing guidance concerning the following: 1) How and who gets notified if there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 among students and/or staff, and 2) How long a person(s) must be absent from school/work.

COVID Testing and Protocols

- BinaxNOW rapid testing will be used to screen students who are showing COVID symptoms and who also have a COVID testing permission form on file with the school nurse.
- The District will work in cooperation with the local Health Department to determine school exclusion on all communicable diseases.
 - Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate away from school for “at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons)” (CDC Guidance).
 - Upon returning to school, the individual “should continue to wear a well-fitting mask when around others... for an additional 5 days” (CDC Guidance).

Plan Review

- Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district’s website.