



5347 Benton Rd. Paducah, KY 42003
Phone: (270) 538-4000 | Fax: (270) 538-4001
www.mccracken.kyschools.us

November 5, 2020

McCracken County families, staff and students,

Due to an exponential increase in staff quarantines, McCracken County High School will begin all-virtual instruction starting Friday, Nov. 6. All other schools will begin all-virtual instruction starting Monday, Nov. 9.

As we shared with you last week, our county is in the red and has been for some time now. This means we've seen at least 25 average daily cases for every 100,000 residents over the last seven days. As of yesterday, our county's seven-day average of cases had risen to 53.9. We also had the 6th highest number of new cases for the day statewide, tied with Laurel county at 56 ([Source: Kentucky Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#)). Because of this, we are following the state and local health department's recommendations and transitioning to all-virtual instruction for at least the next week.

We will continue working with the Purchase District Health Department to monitor COVID-19 locally, and decide week by week to what extent we will offer in-person instruction. **We will update you every Thursday of our plans for the following week.** We want to welcome students back at school as soon as it is safe to do so.

After bringing students back in-person this school year — first on a hybrid schedule, then almost fully in person — we took precautions to make our buildings as safe as possible. This included masks, social-distancing, intensified personal hygiene and cleaning procedures, and careful documentation of who had contact with whom throughout the school day. However, our schools do not exist in a vacuum. As the virus spreads more aggressively in our community, it affects us all, and it affects our schools.

Because we believe so strongly in the importance of having our kids in school, we held on as long as we could. However, the virus is now spreading in our community at such an alarming rate, continuing in-person instruction simply isn't safe or responsible.

Meals will be delivered via bus routes every day next week. Families who would like to receive a meal will need to put a container at the end of their driveway, and the meal will be placed in the container.

To shift our county out of the red and enable a speedy return to school, we can all do our part. Stay home when you can. Wash your hands thoroughly, and often. Reschedule or postpone social gatherings. Opt for take-out, delivery and curbside pick-up when possible. And when you do venture out into the community, wear a mask.

As we return to virtual instruction, let's be thankful for the in-person time we've had, rather than dwell on its ending. And have hope. If we all do our part, we can make our community safe enough for our kids to return to school.

In the words of President Snow of *The Hunger Games*, "Hope, it is the only thing stronger than fear."

Have hope, and stay #McCrackenProud,

Steven T. Carter

Steven T. Carter, Superintendent
McCracken County Public Schools



One Vision... Endless Opportunities
Serving our community through excellence in education.