



Leavenworth County Health Department  
500 Eisenhower Rd Suite 101  
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Aug 7,2020 - This week the Leavenworth County Health Department released the following public health recommendations to Leavenworth County K-12 school districts to help individual districts and families make decisions about reopening schools.

The recommendations are based on information, data and science, and expert analysis currently available. The information comes from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, KDHE, and Children's Mercy Hospital. As new evidence or data becomes available, requirements may change. The Health Department and school districts will work closely together to monitor community and school conditions and make amendments as necessary.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, which is predominantly contracted through the droplets of an infected person. These droplets are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, speaks, etc. The guidelines are intended to mitigate the risk of exposure to these droplets during the school day. Mitigation techniques work. Physical distancing, hand washing, wearing a mask and staying home when ill are effective mitigation techniques. If properly adopted by districts, students and staff, the risk of contracting COVID-19 in schools can be reduced.

The differences in learning modes for elementary and middle/high school students are based on existing evidence showing that older students transmit COVID-19 like adults. Young children appear to not be major drivers of COVID-19 transmission and are at a lower risk to develop serious illness. COVID-19 is caused by a new virus that poses a serious health threat for some individuals. There is inherent risk in any sort of in-person activity, even with safe opening principles in place. Each family will need to weigh the risks and benefits based on their circumstances. Families should approach high-risk activities with additional consideration.

The recommendations represent a public health perspective and opportunity for the community to come together to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 so that schools can safely open.

## Recommended Learning Modes Based on COVID-19 Community Transmission Leavenworth County Health Department v2 updated 8.26.20

	Green	Yellow	Red
<b>Gating Criteria<sup>1</sup></b>			
New Cases/100,000 population (change from a 2-week period)	Less than 50	51- 200	201 or more
% of Persons Testing Positive (Positivity rate) for the 2-week period	Less than 5%	5% - 15%	15% or more
Trend in Incidence Rate (change in 2-week period)	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing
<b>Instruction</b>			
Elementary School	In-person instruction following safe opening principles	In-person/or Hybrid instruction following safe opening principles	Remote
Middle/High School	In-person instruction following safe opening principles	Hybrid <sup>2</sup> (combination of in-person and remote learning)	Remote
<b>Extra and Co-Curricular Activities</b>			
Elementary School	<p>In-person activities following safe operating principles.</p> <p>If allowed by school guidelines, spectator/audience should be distanced by household groups; masked both indoors and outdoors. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' physical distancing of ALL school-related events.</p>	<p>No all-school activities. Limit activities with accompanying safe operating principles including (but not limited to) masking and physical distancing.</p> <p>If allowed by school guidelines, spectator/audience should be distanced by household groups; masked both indoors and outdoors. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' physical distancing</p>	No extra-curricular activities



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		of ALL school-related events.  Limited building visitor access with masks and physical distancing.	
Middle/High School	In-person activities following safe operating principles.  Spectator/audience should be distanced by household groups; masked both indoors and outdoors. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' physical distancing of ALL school-related events.	No high-risk activities. <sup>3</sup>  Limited building visitor access with masks and physical distancing.	No extra-curricular activities

<sup>1</sup> Leavenworth County Health Department Community Data

<sup>2</sup> Hybrid operations should limit number of people in the building/in all spaces to allow for stable (unchanging) groups and social distancing; reduce crowding of any kind with staggered arrival/dismissal/class rotations. Hours inside the building may be reduced and supplemented with remote learning.

<sup>3</sup> High-risk activities, as defined by the National Federation of State High School Associations include “sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.”



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