

Health and Safety Protocols

The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) and Kent County Health Department recommends layers of defense against COVID-19 in schools. The number and intensity of the layers can increase if community transmission increases. At this time, below are the prevention strategies we will implement to start the school year on August 23, 2021.

- [Vaccinations](#)
 - The CDC encourages vaccinations against COVID-19 for eligible staff and students.
 - Vaccinations will not be required for students or staff.
- Facial Coverings
 - The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Given the complex needs of students, facial coverings will be optional for all students.
 - Given the high percentage of vaccinations, facial coverings will be optional for staff. Facial coverings are recommended for staff that are not vaccinated.
 - [The CDC's order](#) requires all persons - regardless of vaccination status - wear masks on public transportation, including school buses. For individuals that are not able to medically tolerate masks due to their disability, parents, school nurses, and administrators will document and inform transportation providers.
 - In addition to indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.
- COVID-19 Screenings, Testing, and Contact Tracing
 - Staff and students are encouraged to self-screen and to stay home if sick or having [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
 - Staff and students are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms or if they are not fully vaccinated and are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.
 - All persons identified as a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case are required to isolate for at least 10 days.
 - Household close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases are required to isolate for at least 10 days, unless fully vaccinated.
 - All persons in educational settings in close contact with a COVID-19 case involved in an outbreak are required to isolate, unless fully vaccinated.
 - Staff and students will have access to COVID-19 screenings at the school.
 - Schools will perform contact tracing according to Kent County Health Department's guidelines.
- Visitor Protocols
 - Kent ISD will be implementing the Ident-A-Kid Visitor Monitoring System from the main office to maintain a detailed record of all people entering and exiting the building.
 - To limit the total number of people in our buildings and to prevent potential exposure, all visitors are encouraged to make an appointment prior to visiting the school.
 - All non-staff adults entering the building will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.



- Maintaining Healthy Environments
 - Buildings and classrooms will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques.
 - Students and staff will be provided multiple opportunities for handwashing with soap and water.
 - Kent ISD will continue to follow the health department's guidance on [routine cleaning](#) to maintain healthy facilities.
 - Kent ISD upgraded its Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems throughout our school buildings to increase ventilation, ensure the delivery of clean air and dilute potential contaminants.