

Contact Tracing Education Talking Points

Overview: Below are talking points to be used for upcoming materials that focus on the role of Contact Tracing during the reopening of Kentucky Schools for the 2020-2021 school year. These talking points may be used together, or in different combinations, depending on the context. This is a live document with updates being made based on new information received and feedback from its viewers.

- The Kentucky Department for Public Health and the Kentucky Department of Education recently published the [“Safety Expectations and Best Practices Guidelines for Kentucky Schools \(K-12\)”](#), which outlines health and safety guidance for the new school year. These guidelines can be found on education.ky.gov.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency. It may seem that everything is back to normal, but it is important that we recognize that COVID-19 can spread quickly if the correct precautions are not taken.
- As schools begin to open for the new school year, it’s important that we keep the health and safety of our kids and our communities at the forefront of every decision.
- It’s more than likely that someone in your school system will have COVID-19. In order to contain the virus and slow the spread, school districts should be prepared to assist their Local Health Departments with Contact Tracing.
- If you have been exposed, you or a legal guardian will receive a phone call from the Local Health Department. It’s important that you answer their call, answer their questions clearly and completely, and follow the instructions provided to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Contact Tracing is as simple as understanding who kids are in contact with and how schools can slow the spread to other students, faculty, and staff.
- Contact Tracing is a nationwide effort to protect the health and safety of our children as we gradually return to some of our normal routines.
- Contact Tracing has been used to slow the spread of measles, chicken pox, mumps, and many other illnesses observed in schools.

- To protect confidentiality, parents, legal guardians, faculty, and staff will not be told the identity of the person who may have exposed them or their child. They will be told what they need to do to care for themselves, reduce the risk to others, and protect their homes and schools from any further exposure.
- This statewide Contact Tracing system will allow us to follow where a virus may travel ... across schools or beyond ... so we can warn people and stop further viral spread.
- Helping contain and slow the spread of COVID-19 will be a major part of this new school year. As we learn and adapt to this new normal, we are all working together to help our kids stay healthy and focused on learning.
- Going back to school means wearing a mask to cover your mouth and nose. Every student first grade and above, unless medically waived, will need to become comfortable wearing a mask to school.
- Masks are a safe and simple way to slow the spread of germs.
- Combined with social distancing and Contact Tracing, wearing a mask is a simple way to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- If you or your students/child(ren) have COVID-19, your Local Health Department is prepared to provide the tools necessary to slow the spread and protect the health of your school community.
- This school year will look different for everybody, but we all have to work together to make this a memorable and healthy year for our kids.
- And remember - we will get through this, and we will get through this together.

Recommendation: Use of talking points should be limited to social media distribution, handout materials, and quick PSA videos.