

EDUCATION

Kentucky school districts deciding own mask guidance

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) - Recent guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding mask usage due to the COVID-19 pandemic when school classes resume for the fall semester has local districts in Kentucky going their own way on the issue.

Last Friday the CDC recommended wearing a mask while indoors for everyone who is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and maintaining three feet of distance within classrooms.

The CDC said administrators can also require indoor mask

use for students, teachers, and staff who are vaccinated, depending on the local needs of the community. That includes schools with children under age 12, who have not been approved for a vaccine yet, or high rates of the coronavirus in the region.

Last month, the Kentucky Department of Education lifted its mandate on mask use and social distancing, while saying school districts may, at their discretion, continue to implement appropriate mitigation strategies that align with CDC guidance.

The KDE said on June 11 those who choose to wear a mask

as a matter of personal preference or comfort should be allowed to continue to do so, adding the Kentucky Department for Public Health recommends, but does not require, that schools continue to follow CDC guidance.

The Jefferson County Public Schools, the state's largest district, is one of those who will require masks for unvaccinated students, at least for now.

"In accordance with new CDC guidance that was issued on Friday, all unvaccinated JCPS students and staff will wear a mask indoors," said JCPS Board member James Craig in a post on social media. "The board will

consider at its July 27 meeting how to implement the new CDC guidance, with any pending guidance from the Kentucky Department of Education for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year."

Meanwhile, students who are eligible to get the vaccine are staying away in droves, according to a story in Kentucky Health News that appears in Kentucky Today.

"They say the state Department for Public Health reports 85,610 youth aged 12 to 17 have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine, the only one approved for those 12 to 15."

U.S. Census Bureau



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

says that number is about 25 percent of the 12-17 age group in Kentucky. The Kids Count Data Center, using data, says there were 341,365 children 12 to 17 in the state in 2019.

Since the first case of

COVID-19 was reported in Kentucky on March 6, 2020, the state has now seen a total of 467,612 cases, with 7,265 deaths attributed at least in part, to the coronavirus.

Financial Aid Tip for Students, July 2021

Pay close attention to application deadlines for financial aid

FRANKFORT, Ky. — High school seniors should keep a close eye on deadlines when applying for college financial aid, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

"Our administration puts education first because it's one of the most important investments a student can make in their future," said Gov. Andy Beshear.

"It's important to take full advantage of any scholarship or grant opportunity that can help pay for technical training and college, and staying on top of deadlines will help you earn more in free student aid so you won't have to depend as much on student loans."

Here are some tips from KHEAA:

- File the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible beginning Oct. 1. You must submit the FAFSA to qualify for most state and federal student aid.

- Check with the financial aid offices of the schools to which you've applied to determine if they require any forms other than the FAFSA.
- Look for scholarships using KHEAA's "Affording Higher Education" and a free online scholarship search. You can find

a link to a free search site under the "Paying for College" tab on kheaa.com.

- Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered in your area. If a company charges a fee for helping with applications, remember that you can do that yourself for free. If you decide to pay for help, make sure the company is reputable by checking with the attorney general's office or the Better Business Bureau

in your area, as well as the area where the firm is located.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky's student financial aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), offers low-cost Advantage Loans to help students and parents pay for college or refinance student loans. For more

information about Advantage Loans, visit advantageeducationloan.com.

Many of KHEAA's student aid programs are funded by Kentucky Lottery revenue.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Resolution 2021 06-22-R- 06 affirming Livingston County's desire to pursue federal funds to establish an additional school resource officer for the safety of our students was adopted at the Regular Fiscal Court meeting held on June 22, 2021. A copy of this resolution with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ordinance 2021 O 06-09-01 amending the Livingston County budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include unanticipated receipts from General, Road, Jail, LGEA, Federal Grants, Sheriff's Office, Occupational Tax, E911 Dispatch, Tourism, Judicial and Special Reserve in the amount of \$2,238,905.32, and increasing expenditures in the area of General, Road, Jail, LGEA, Federal Grants, Sheriff's Office, Occupational Tax, E911 Dispatch, Tourism, Judicial and Special Reserve was passed on June 22, 2021 in the Fiscal Court Room located at the Livingston County Library/Office Building. A copy of the ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Detailed copies of the following ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Rivers on June 8, 2021 is on file and may be obtained upon request at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 122 West Cumberland Avenue, Grand Rivers, Kentucky from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

ORDINANCE 02-2021 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022 FOR THE CITY OF GRAND RIVERS, KENTUCKY.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
REVENUE			
Taxes	\$ 286,000		\$ 286,000
Leases & Rents	\$ 41,550		\$ 41,550
MAF	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
Internet Department	\$ 18,350		\$ 18,350

NOTICE TO THE CUSTOMERS OF LEDBETTER WATER DISTRICT

On April 2, 2018, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) accepted for filing Ledbetter Water District's application request to increase its revenue from sewer sales by \$284,930, an approximately 67% increase. After performing a review of Ledbetter Water District's application and records, the PSC staff recommended that Ledbetter District be granted an increase in sewer revenues of approximately 54.20 percent, to be divided equally between two phases. In response to the PSC staff report of July 16, 2018, Ledbetter District requested an audit adjustment of \$14,747 that had been omitted from Staff's Report be included in the revenue requirement, and that 65% of the subsequent revenue increase be awarded in phase 1 rates. The remaining 35% of the revenue increase would be implemented in phase 2 rates that were to take effect one year later, in 2019. Phase 1 rates went into effect on September 10, 2018. With the approval of the PSC the Livingston County Fiscal Court provided financial assistance for a period of two years, which allowed Ledbetter to postpone implementing the phase 2 rate increase. The PSC has denied a request for further delay in implementing the phase 2 rate increase. Pursuant to the final Order of the PSC in Case number 2018-00117, the following rates shall become effective on August 20, 2021 for sewer service that Ledbetter Water District provides.

ALL METERED CUSTOMERS	CURRENT RATES	PROPOSED RATE
First 2,000 gallons	\$34.69 Minimum Bill	\$39.74 Minimum Bill
Over 2,000 gallons	\$17.71 per 1,000 gallons	\$20.29 per 1,000 gallons
Unmetered Customers	\$86.92 per month	\$100.61 per month

An average customer bill for 5,000 gallons usage will increase from \$87.82 to \$100.61 or 14.56%.

Any person may examine the rate application and any other filings made by Ledbetter Water District at its offices between 8:00 and 4:00 at the address below, or at the Public Service Commission between 8:00 and 4:30 at the address below.

Ledbetter Water District 1483 US 60 West PO Box 123 Ledbetter, Kentucky 42058 Telephone: 270-898-3236	Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard PO Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602 Telephone: 502-564-3940
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Persons may also view and download a copy of the rate application through the Public Service Commission's website at <http://pscc.ky.gov>.

Cool Drinks for Hot Days

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