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## **JCDHE releases recommendations for school reopening**

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (July 28, 2020) – The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) is releasing public health recommendations for K-12 schools to help families and school districts make decisions about the reopening of schools in Johnson County.

These recommendations are a result of a collaboration between JCDHE and school districts in the county. It outlines recommendations for learning modes, based on COVID-19 transmission in the community.

“It is important that we all protect the health and well-being of our students, teachers, school staff and families by carefully considering all risks and benefits of reopening schools,” states Dr. Sanmi Areola, JCDHE director. “These guidelines are a starting point for school administrators and parents/caregivers to make decisions on what is best for their school community and individual family.”

County and district leaders have agreed to meet again the week of Aug. 17 to review data and make final decisions about the learning mode to begin the 2020-2021 school year. The next several weeks are critical for all community members to work together to decrease the spread of the virus.

The guidelines include what types of learning modes and extra-curricular activities are recommended, based on the current knowledge and data about COVID-19. As new evidence emerges, requirements may change. JCDHE and school districts will work closely together to monitor community and school conditions and make amendments if necessary.

In the last 14 days, newly reported cases in Johnson County have leveled off, as have the percent of all tests that are positive, which is currently 8.8% (yellow category). However,

community transmission indicated by the average daily number of cases is still high. We need to continue to wear masks, avoid crowded events, stay home when sick and wash hands frequently.

The recommendations can be found at [www.jocogov.org/coronavirus](http://www.jocogov.org/coronavirus). The two measures that make up the gating criteria are updated daily.

Link to media soundbites:

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/19350ce277b3b6bfbfcfc84700b7731d20200728183926/1c87cb76c815f89da7a5fdaf1a5cc66720200728183926/463639>

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