



Two of the vendors at the Estill County Farmers Market are Shannon and Josh Dahler. This past week they were selling Golden Oyster Mushrooms. The market is a sideline for them, as they are caretakers for the Lily Mountain Nature Preserve.



← The left photo shows some of the mushrooms the Dahlers were selling at the farmer's market. Another vendor, Robin Reed was also selling mushrooms on Friday. Reed had other items to sale including kale and bean sticks. The vendors at the farmer's market observe Covid-19 restrictions by wearing masks and maintaining a six-foot space of social distancing.

Irvine council meets in person for only the second time since social distancing began

The Irvine Council met in-person for a special session on Thursday evening for the second time since the pandemic began.

The first item of the session was to give second and final reading to an ordinance which amended the 2019-2020 budget. The city had received unanticipated revenues of \$27,500 for a fire grant.

No action was taken on a second item on the agenda.

City Clerk Robin Powell said that Councilman Ernest Farmer had requested to know the different categories of revenues in the proposed budget which have gone up or down. A few revenues

were predicted to stay the same.

The 2020-2021 budget will take effect July 1.

Powell said that increases were expected in property taxes, insurance premium fees, garbage, privilege licenses, accident reports, and police incentive pay.

She added the firemen's incentive pay was less because the fire department had one less paid employee.

Before adjourning the meeting, Powell stated that she had been told by Property Valuation Administrator Jeff Hix that the city will not start collecting property taxes until December because of Covid-19.

Drive by and see Santa!

Drive by and bring the kids to see Santa between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon on Thursday, June 25 between the Irvine Fire Department and Main Street Grub on Collins St., Irvine.

As each vehicle passes, Santa and his elf will give each child a stuffed toy. Back Street Grub will give each child a token for a snow cone.

All participants will be wearing gloves and masks.

The event is made possible with the help of Santa Claus, Mayor James Gross, Chief John Sturniolo and Back Street Grub.

The Estill County Tribune

Estill County	Adj. Counties	Kentucky	Out of State
1 year \$16.04	1 year \$26.42	1 year \$30.19	1 year \$32.00
Sales Tax 0.96	Sales Tax 1.58	Sales Tax 1.81	Sales Tax 0.00
Total \$17.00	Total \$28.00	Total \$32.00	Total \$32.00

**Seniors, 65 and older, may deduct \$2.50 from above totals

Name _____

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Update on schools reiterates principles without saying what will be mandated, but Beshear and health chief urge more mask wearing

By Melissa Patrick
 Kentucky Health News

Kentucky schools were told Monday, June 15 to prepare for intermittent closures during the school year to come, but they still await firm word from state officials about what will be recommended and what will be required.

The state Department of Education released guidance on intermittent closures that calls for use of "non-traditional instruction," meaning online instruction at home, for short-term closures of one or two days, mid-term closures of three to 10 days, and long-term closures of 11 or more days.

Gov. Andy Beshear stressed that it's important to prepare for such closures to make sure schools have the resources needed to open and close successfully. He said closures could be "surgical," involving just a class or a school, depending on the size of an outbreak and where it is located.

The education department posted a 10-to-15-minute survey seeking opinions of students' families about their experiences with distance learning in the pandemic. The survey will remain open through June 24.

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, Beshear's secretary of education and workforce, gave a much-anticipated update on Monday's meeting of the state's Education Continuation Task Force, but offered few details.

She said the task force now includes four legislators: Reps. Tina Bojanowski, D-Louisville, Rep. Regina Huff, R-Williamsburg; Sen. Reginald Thomas, D-Lexington, and Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, who last week suggested that Beshear create an advisory council for

the reopening of schools.

Coleman said the task force is working to create a culture of support for the five best practices that public health officials have repeated over and over: "wearing masks, practicing social distancing, hand sanitizing and surface sanitizing, temperature checks and contact tracing."

She said, "We have to now contemplate how does this look in a school system . . . whether there are hundreds and maybe even thousands of students in the building at one time. And that is certainly not going to be an easy feat."

School superintendents have warned that many parents will resist efforts to make their children wear masks. Coleman, Beshear and Health Commissioner Steven Stack all focused at Beshear's Monday briefing on the importance of wearing masks, and adults setting examples for children.

"It is going to be imperative that our students and the kids in our communities have positive role models and positive examples to actually practice what we preach," Coleman said. "We should never ask of our students what we're not willing to give. And so it's really important for not just our teachers and our education leaders, but our community leaders and our state leaders to follow these guidelines as well."

She said each school district will have to find the best way to implement state guidelines. "It is going to be a difficult lift and I'm not going to sugarcoat that because we have children who are involved," she said. "I know that we are going to be able to do this as we work together."

Beshear, asked about mandates, said he expected that some things will be mandated, while others will be highly recommended. He didn't elaborate.

"The more a school district does, not just the mandatory, but the highly recommended, the safer it becomes," he said. "There's not going to be a perfectly safe option out there. We know we've got to get back to school, and we hope that our school districts have a high commitment to safety and do everything that they can under both the mandatory and the recommended."

Beshear spent much time talking about the importance of wearing masks, stressing that this is not just the advice of the state Department for Public Health, but of every public health official, including President Trump's.

"The one most important thing we can do to prevent a spike, to make our reopening go the way we want it to, is to wear a mask," he said. "I know this has become part of what some people call it a cultural war. Folks, this is not. This is the key to keeping each other alive. It's the key to keeping our reopening. . . . You want our kids to be back in school as soon as possible and you're not wearing a mask? You could be preventing what it is that you want to see. I know it's not comfortable. But when every single health official - those working for President Trump, those working for me - say this is the very best shot we have, shouldn't we be willing to do it?"

The renewed push to wear a mask comes as several states are starting to see a surge in new cases, with little mask wearing at many gatherings. People can spread the virus without having symptoms.

Stack showed a slide comparing the surges of new cases in Arizona, South Carolina and Florida, saying they began about a month ago, which corresponds roughly to the relaxation of social-dis-

tancing restrictions in those states.

Kentucky has seen a recent increase in cases, but Stack said it's been more of a "zig-zag sort of pattern" that over time will likely look like a plateau, largely because of the efforts of the state to contain the virus. But he also cautioned, "We are at risk, just like everybody else for that sudden increase if we take our eye off the ball."

Stack said prevention is essential because "There is no vaccine, there is no cure, there is no specific treatment for the coronavirus."

When prevention fails and someone gets the virus, the key is identifying them and tracking down the people with whom they have made contact.

Mark Carter, who is in charge of the state's contact-tracing efforts, encouraged Kentuckians to "answer the call" when a contact tracer reaches out to them as a way to help decrease the spread of the disease.

He also cautioned: "This is a private process; no one will ever ask you for bank account information or credit cards or anything like that. If it happens, you need to call the hotline in the attorney general's office and report that call. You may be asked about your address and who lives with you and things of that nature, but that's just to identify your contacts. The fraudulent stuff with Social Security numbers and bank account information and credit cards, call the attorney general."

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