



FHS Parent Update: October 30, 2020

Students/Parents:

I wanted to provide a quick update this afternoon as we have had a busy week here at FHS. During this week alone, we have had three positive COVID-19 cases that have resulted in us quarantining many students and staff. Here are our current stats from this week:

Positive Cases with Contact Tracing At FHS	Students Quarantined By Contact Tracing	Staff Quarantined By Contact Tracing	Total FHS Students Out Due To COVID Related Absences	Total FHS Staff Out Due To COVID Related Absences
3	46	4	69	7

POTENTIAL Transition To Remote Learning 11/4 through 11/6:

We are aware of additional students that are being tested for COVID-19. Depending on the results, more students and staff may be quarantined. If we cannot find enough subs to cover our staffing needs at the high school, we will need to consider going remote for a short period of time. Prior to students leaving school today, students were told to take home learning materials as a precaution. We will have a large number of students and staff able to return the week of November 9. As of now, the only potential remote learning would happen next Wednesday (11/4) through next Friday (11/6). If remote learning is needed next week, an announcement will be sent to all FHS students and families.

What are the symptoms we are noticing at FHS?

Most of the cases that we are aware of at FHS seem to resemble mild colds or allergies. We have not seen students developing fevers or showing other symptoms that were originally “flagship” symptoms of COVID-19. Although minor, these symptoms can end up quarantining many students and staff as we noticed this week.

When should your student remain home from school?

The keyword in the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD) guidance is **NEW**. If your student has a **NEW** sore throat,

cough, or other symptom, then please keep them home. In order to return, students will need to get a negative COVID test, an alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider, or wait 10 days from the onset of symptoms. In any case, students should be symptom free prior to returning to school.

What is contact tracing and how does it work?

Contact tracing occurs when the school finds out a student or staff member has tested positive and has attended school within two days of the onset of symptoms.

For example, Student A comes to school all week, develops a cough on Saturday, and then tests positive on Sunday. In this case, since the student's symptoms started on Saturday, the school would be notified to determine the number of students that need to be quarantined from Thursday and Friday.

At FHS, administration contacts teachers to let them know there was a positive case in their classroom. After verifying seating charts and distances, teachers then respond and identify the students that were in "close contact" and need to quarantine.

What does it mean if a student is in "close contact" and has to quarantine?

Students are considered to be in "close contact" if they are within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes of a person that has tested positive for COVID-19. The 15 minutes do not have to be consecutive. If a student is in contact with a positive person 10 minutes on day 1 and 10 minutes on day 2, they will be quarantined.

My student is quarantined. Now what?

Students that are quarantined should still check in with their classes during their scheduled class time, check Canvas daily, and email teachers if they are not sure what to do. As a reminder, the 1:30 to 3:00 time is being utilized to support remote students including those quarantined. If a student needs to individually meet with a teacher, they should arrange that time with the teacher.

This is a challenging time for our students, staff, and community. Whether a student or staff member tests positive or becomes quarantined, we adjust, manage the situation, and then move forward. As always, we are here to help and support our students. If they are in need of anything, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gosch, Mr. Henrekin, and Dr. Hogue