DEAR FCPS COMMUNITY,

We continue to have a goal of maintaining in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible while providing a safe learning environment. Any shift from in-person instruction must follow guidance from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The purpose of this message is to provide a community update on the FCPS response to COVID-19.

Frederick County Public Schools COVID-19 Dashboard

The number of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools is available on the COVID-19 Dashboard linked on the front page of the FCPS website. The dashboard provides a summary of positive COVID-19 cases reported in schools currently and historically for the entire school year. In addition, it links to the Frederick County COVID-19 data and the Maryland Department of Health School Outbreak Dashboard. The FCPS dashboard is updated daily.

Face Coverings:
Face coverings are welcomed and encouraged for staff and students. Schools and buses have face masks available for all who choose to wear one. (Face coverings are still required in the health room)

Isolation Protocol:
Staff follow established procedures to isolate symptomatic individuals. We are enforcing isolation of positive or symptomatic individuals for at least 5 full days from onset of symptoms.

Current Mitigation Strategies
FCPS wants to remind the community of important mitigation measures in place to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 in schools.

Ventilation:
School buildings have increased the ventilation by bringing in more outside air and increased filtration to align with ASHRAE recommendations.

Daily Screening Checklist:
This checklist of primary COVID-19 symptoms is shared weekly via email in Schoology and OneCallNow phone calls to ensure that families have the tool to screen students prior to leaving their home each day.

Class/Health Room Air Purifiers:
All class/health rooms have air purifiers to help increase the circulation and filtration of air to help remove pollutants, allergens, and toxins.

Home Test Kits:
Individuals who are sent home from the health room with primary COVID-19 symptoms are sent home with a COVID-19 test kit.

Emphasis on Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing:
The emphasis on hand washing and/or sanitizing is integral to maintaining a clean and safe environment.

Communication Strategies:
When a positive case of COVID-19 occurs in a school, the following notifications are sent by the school to inform stakeholders:

- Classroom letter when a positive COVID-19 individual was present in the room
- Maryland Department of Health confirmed COVID-19 Outbreaks in a school are communicated via FOF to the whole school community.
- Positive COVID-19 cases reported via the FCPS COVID-19 Dashboard