

## **FAQ regarding masks, quarantining and attendance**

### **MASKS:**

#### **Are masks required this school year?**

Universal masking for all Pk-12 students, staff and visitors inside the school building and on the school bus regardless of vaccination status. Medical and religious exemptions will be honored. It should be noted that wearing masks decreases the likelihood of both transmitting/contracting the virus and of being quarantined due to exposure if all parties are masked.

#### **Does the mask order apply during naptime at school?**

No, children should not wear masks during naptime. CDC Guidance clarifies that child care providers should remove masks “before sleeping, napping, [and] when they may fall asleep.” Sleeping children may be unable to remove their masks if their breathing is obstructed.

#### **What mitigation measures will Franklin County Public Schools put in place for staff and students that are unable to wear a mask?**

Mitigation strategies will be based on each schools’ space, positivity rate and other factors:

- Unmasked Staff and students adhere to 6’ social distancing (teaching in a safe zone)
- When social distancing is not feasible, other barriers such as a tri-fold shield may be provided.
- Tri-fold shields are available upon request when students need to remove masks while eating.
- Eat in classrooms rather than cafeteria
- Limit visitors

### **QUARANTINING:**

**Will students that have sat in the same classroom with a covid infected classmate all day, even if they are on the other side of the room have to quarantine?**

Close contact is defined as being closer than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes over a 24 hour period. Being in a classroom with a positive student would not automatically cause you to be identified to quarantine. We do consult with our VDH contact and each case is treated as an individual case and treated as such. We depend on the partnership we have with the VDH to offer guidance.

**How will quarantines be handled this year?**

Each exposure will be handled on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health. In regards to isolation/quarantines, students who are not vaccinated and are a close contact will have to quarantine. If a positive student and a student who is considered within close contact are both masked, the exposed student will be exempt from quarantine. Both students must be masked.

**How will IEPs and 504 Plans be implemented during a quarantine?**

Quarantined students with an IEP will receive the special education service minutes as stated in the last agreed upon IEP. The minutes that are listed as "virtual minutes" located in the Present Level of Performance should be followed. Goals and accommodations that can be addressed in the virtual environment will be provided. 504 accommodations that can and should be used during virtual instruction will be provided.

**What will be the length of quarantines this school year?**

1. Staff and students who test positive for COVID will isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive test.
2. Staff and students who are exposed to a positive COVID case will quarantine for 10 days.
3. Staff and students may test on or after the 5th day of quarantine. Staff and students may return on the 8th day if they have a negative result.

### **Will vaccination status or positive COVID test impact the need to quarantine?**

Staff and students who are fully vaccinated or who have tested positive in the last 90 days, do not need to quarantine if exposed to a case unless symptomatic.

### **If caregivers send students to school with Covid19 like symptoms, what action will be taken?**

A School Nurse will assess the student in the isolation room. If the student is exhibiting Covid 19 symptoms they will be held there until the parent picks the child up.

### **How can I find out if my child's teacher is vaccinated?**

The HIPAA privacy law does not allow us to ask or discuss a teacher's medical record. Staff may be asked about their vaccine status if they were exposed to Covid at school as part of the contact tracing process.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **What is the attendance policy this year?**

Students who must isolate due to a positive Covid test or must quarantine due to exposure, will be marked with a Q which means they are marked present but quarantining. These students will be provided access to their lessons via Canvas (FCPS's learning management system). The instruction will be asynchronous which means the teacher is not teaching a LIVE session. If a student does not do assignments, their grade may be impacted.

### **If a student lives in an area where it is difficult to access the internet, what other options are available to obtain assignments?**

Hotspots are available for students, if needed. Each school will have instructional support for quarantined students or students with Covid. This instructional support might be a daily phone call, delivery of paper assignments, or

communication through other social media platforms accessible on a cellular phone (such as Class Dojo or Seesaw).

**Will there be a Covid dashboard on the division website this school year?**

Yes, the dashboard is up and current.