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GRANT HEGENAUER
SUPERINTENDENT

UPDATED: September 7, 2021

Dear Frankenmuth School District Families:

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the last few days of our wonderful Michigan summer! The first day for students of the 2021-22 school year is September 1, 2021. We are excited and ready for your student(s) to return and are looking forward to a successful year.

I am sure there are questions/concerns about the upcoming school year, especially with COVID-19 protocols, and I would like to cover these questions/concerns so we are all on the same page when we start on September 1, 2021.

COVID-19 Symptom Response

Parents are required to carefully monitor their children's health, temperature, and screen daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Staff is required to self-monitor their symptoms. If any student or staff member experiences any of the following symptoms, they must stay home and it is recommended to call their primary care provider.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are any of the following not explained by a known medical or physical condition

Any ONE of the following:

- *Cough
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- *Fever (100.4 or higher)
- *New loss of taste or smell

OR

At least TWO of the following:

- *Chills/Sweating
- *Abdominal pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- *Muscle pain or body aches
- *New onset of severe headache
- *Sore throat
- *Congestion or runny nose

If the student is experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms not explained by a known medical or physical condition, they might have COVID-19 and they should not attend school. They should seek guidance from their primary care provider. They can return after they are symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

Facemasks

Anyone, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation, including school buses, pursuant to a federal order from the CDC, will be required to wear a facemask. Each student/family's choice whether or not to wear a mask while in attendance at all district activities will be respected and supported, unless a mask mandate is put into effect. Facemasks will be available for students, staff, and visitors at all buildings.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are not required to attend FSD, be employed at FSD, or enter FSD buildings.

Physical Distancing

The Saginaw County Health Department recommends three feet of physical distancing between students. FSD will attempt to physically distance individuals as recommended and as practicable.

Screening/Testing

The Frankenmuth School District will not require any screening or COVID-19 testing to attend, participate (including athletic and non-athletic activities), be employed, or enter buildings, unless mandated.

Ventilation

Proper ventilation can help decrease the number of COVID-19 virus particles present in the air. FSD HVAC systems are monitored on a daily basis, running properly, and we are maximizing ventilation within our buildings.

Proper Handwashing and Cough/Sneeze Etiquette

The Frankenmuth School District will continue to educate all students and staff on proper handwashing, watching your distance, covering coughs/sneezes and properly disposing of tissues.

Cleaning and Sanitization

Deep cleaning and sanitization of all school buildings will take place at the end of each school day, with more frequent cleaning and sanitization for high touch surfaces when deemed appropriate.

Contact Tracing (Isolation and Quarantine)

The Frankenmuth School District will work with the Saginaw County Health Department to report COVID-19 positive individuals and contact trace those individuals who may be considered a close contact. If there is a positive case in your child's class, contact tracing will go as follows:

- When the county threshold is at High Transmission, unvaccinated students and/or staff who are deemed a close contact will be excluded from school for seven days with a negative test conducted on or after day five; or they will need to quarantine for ten days, or they may elect serial antigen testing for all school days within the 10-day quarantine period (or 7-day if PCR tested and negative).
 1. The testing protocols for the serial antigen testing strategy are:

Staff and/or students identified as close contacts are to be tested DAILY first thing in the morning at school (conducted in a private area away from others).

Students may ride the bus to school for this testing with continued mask wearing.

All close contacts that test negative can continue to attend/instruct in-person learning for the day while wearing masks and attend sport or extra-curricular activities.

Any close contacts that test positive must be isolated immediately and sent home for PCR confirmatory testing. PCR confirmatory testing is available at the Saginaw County Health Department Monday-Friday, 8:30 – 11:30 am.

- Close contact is defined as being within three (masked) or six feet (unmasked) of a person who is positive for at least 15 minutes (cumulative) with or without a mask, starting from two days before illness onset and/or positive collection. Students and/or staff who are COVID-19 positive will be excluded from school and will need to isolate for ten days.

- Anyone who has been vaccinated or has tested positive in the last 90 days does NOT have to quarantine, but will need monitor symptoms.
- Anyone who is not vaccinated but wearing a mask must quarantine if they were within 3 feet of the person for 15 minutes.
- Anyone who is not vaccinated and not wearing a mask must quarantine if they were within 6 feet of the person for 15 minutes.
- If your student is sick or displays COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your student's building, and keep them out of school. Below is the self-reporting form FSD is using to discreetly compile COVID positive tests and COVID-related quarantine information. We're encouraging the use of an online form because it doesn't require in-person contact, and you can complete at your convenience 24/7: <https://forms.gle/rqAgBqNBRaERSZCy8>

Notification

- Due to health privacy and student data laws, the Frankenmuth School District cannot, and will not, disclose the identity of a staff member or student who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 may not return to school until they have completed the return protocol provided by the Saginaw County Health Department. The Frankenmuth School District will be provided confirmation that the individual is cleared to return.
- In the event of a positive COVID 19 test, the Frankenmuth School District will work closely with public health officials. The Saginaw County Health Department will investigate and help us identify "close contacts" (people within three feet (if masked) or six feet (if unmasked) of the positive case for 15 minutes or longer) during the infectious period. Close contacts will be directly informed and will be ordered to quarantine by the Saginaw County Health Department if the county threshold is at High Transmission.
- Students who have tested positive or quarantined as a result of "close contact" will be marked as medical-excused for attendance purposes. They will continue to receive instruction through their FSD teachers, with understanding that their situation may require additional time for work completion.
- The Frankenmuth School District will notify staff and parents within the building via email when an individual has tested positive for COVID-19. This will be done as a precautionary measure. We will be as transparent as legally possible with our communications.

FAQ

Can we as a school district choose not to follow mandates?

No. Per Michigan Health Code, we must adhere to all mandates issued from the local health department. The Saginaw County Health Department has the legal right to give mandates and enforce those mandates. FSD continues to review all mandates and recommendations with both the health department and our legal counsel. Information regarding the Saginaw County Return to Learn Interim Guidance can be found at the following links:

https://www.saginawpublichealth.org/media/3bflqdkg/schd_return_to_learn_interim_guidance_8_12_21.pdf

https://www.saginawpublichealth.org/media/aubhhhls/quarantine_fact_sheet_8_12_2021.pdf

The Frankenmuth School District is committed to keeping our students, staff, and community safe. We also understand the value of a Frankenmuth education and continue to strive to put our students in a position to be successful. If you have any questions, please contact me or your student's building administrator.

Your support and flexibility throughout the past year has been unwavering, and on behalf of the Frankenmuth School District, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GBH", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grant B. Hegenauer
Superintendent