



COVID-19 Update September 30, 2020

Good morning,

Fairfield Ludlowe High School is closed for the next two days as a result of three more positive cases. More than 30 additional students have been asked to quarantine, bringing the total number of students and staff in quarantine to over 80. Over two dozen individuals outside of Fairfield Public Schools have been identified as close contacts and are also in quarantine. As more students are tested, we should expect more positive results.

The new cases are not related to the ones that occurred last week. For the second week in a row, we find ourselves having to deal with the consequences of our students participating in weekend activities without masks and without appropriate social distancing. In this case, it wasn't parties, but seemingly innocent activities like playing pick-up football or basketball, or any sponsored event. Individuals are contagious two days prior to showing even mild symptoms. So there are no "safe" activities without masks and social distancing.

We can and do ensure that students wear masks and socially distance when they're at school, but what our students do outside of school has a serious impact on our ability to safely keep school open. We understand that we are dealing with young people. We understand how important it is for them to be with their friends. But we are dealing with a global pandemic and we cannot put all of our students and staff at risk because of the actions of a few.

Our staff and the Fairfield Health Department have been working around the clock to identify, reach out to, and monitor close contacts to ensure that individuals who need to isolate or quarantine do so as quickly as possible. They are doing an amazing job, but it's not enough unless everyone does their part. So again, I'm asking you to:

- Wear a mask and maintain social distancing for all activities outside of home and school.
- Students who have any symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home.
- Students who are awaiting COVID-19 test results must stay home.
- If a member of the Health Department's contact tracing team calls, please provide accurate and complete information. The more they know the better decisions we can all make.

We are monitoring cases closely and will consider extending the closure if the current situation changes. Any changes will be communicated via IC.

Please, do your part.

Mike

Mike Cummings
Superintendent of Schools
Fairfield Public Schools