



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Sept. 11, 2020

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

It is steady as she goes or better in Morton schools, with the number of students absent due to confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses unchanged from a week ago and the number of quarantines significantly down.

COVID positives among the student body again were at 4 on Friday, Sept. 11. The good news is that two of those four students return to class on Monday. The number of students choosing remote learning is now at 254, up from 251.

Quarantines, meanwhile, declined from 133 to 75, with 25 of the latter expected back by Tuesday of next week and virtually all of them in our buildings by week's end. The expectation has always been that these numbers will fluctuate on an almost daily basis.

It was better news on the staff front, as well, with no employees out and only one in quarantine, down from five.

Again, please do not confuse quarantines with COVID positives. Just because someone is in self-isolation does not mean they have contracted COVID. It just signifies that they *may* have been exposed and are self-isolating as a precaution. The vast majority are not sick or suffering any symptoms.

With overall attendance of approximately 2,830 students on any given day, District 709's positivity and quarantine rates are at .14 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively, which compare quite favorably with the world outside our schools.

Please see the chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative					
	Labor Day	9/8/20	9/9/20	9/10/20	9/11/20
Staff					
Covid-19 Positive		0	0	0	0
Quarantining		4	3	3	1
FT Remote Teaching		3	3	3	3
Students					
Covid-19 Positive					
Brown		0	0	0	0
Grundy		0	0	0	0
Jefferson		0	0	0	0
Lincoln		0	0	0	0
JH		1*	1*	2*	1
HS		3	3	3	3
MA		0	0	0	0
Total		4	4	5	4
		0.000%	0.141%	0.176%	0.141%
Quarantining					
Brown		1	1	1	1
Grundy		2	2	2	2
Jefferson		4	2	2	2
Lincoln		4	6	5	0
JH		4	4	3	4
HS		72	70	66	66
MA		0	0	0	0
Total		87	85	79	75
		0.000%	3.058%	2.988%	2.777%
Remote Learning		253	253	253	254
Homeschool/Private		84	84	84	84

So far, we have not seen a bump in COVID cases from the long Labor Day weekend – just the opposite, in fact – which is very encouraging. That said, it is important that we not let our guard down, that we continue to exercise caution regarding crowds, and that we be prudent about masking and physical distancing.



We might add that students who are quarantined per the Tazewell County Health Department are supposed to be quarantined from social activities in general, as well as from school. While engagements outside the classroom are family decisions, we appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we seek to preserve in-person learning, which we continue to believe is the best overall scenario, for many reasons.

We correspond daily with the Tazewell County Health Department regarding any COVID cases, close contacts and protocols. Please continue to utilize our COVID form located at <https://www.morton709.org/covid-updates>.

Again, we cannot stress strongly enough, to parents and students, that if you have tested for COVID-19 but have not received your results, please **do not** come to school until you have confirmation of a negative test. This is not only in your best interests but consistent with the goal we should all share of trying to protect others.

Beyond that, we would encourage everyone to read and become familiar with our [Healthy Quarantining Guide](#).

We remain committed to transparency as we move forward, whatever comes our



way, to getting our constituents the most accurate, reliable information that we can, and to keeping as many students as possible physically present in school with their teachers and peers.

We are happy to answer questions as they come up, and again refer our families to our [Return to School Plan](#). If you have a concern, please contact your school principal, who will do his or her best to assist you.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation in this unprecedented school year. Those qualities make us proud to be a part of the Morton community, and they're among the reasons we have decent news to share with you today. Let's keep it up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow background.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D
Superintendent
Morton Community Unit School District 709