



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Sept. 18, 2020

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

The health and attendance situation remained stable in Morton classrooms this past week, with only 1 student in the district absent due to a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis as of Friday, Sept. 18. For the first time this school year, ***no student positives*** were recorded at Morton High School.

Student quarantines district-wide also declined from 75 to 30 – a low not seen since the first few days of school -- with just 10 at MHS. That represents real progress. We cannot stress enough the importance of continuing the healthy habits – masking, physical distancing, washing hands, wise decision-making on the part of students and families -- that we believe have led to it. It is interesting to witness other districts across the U.S. now making plans to get students back in classrooms. That said, our expectation remains that these numbers will fluctuate.

The news was not quite as good on the staff front, where 3 were out with a positive test, 7 quarantining.

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. The vast majority are not sick or suffering symptoms. Meanwhile, the number of students choosing remote learning is at 257, up from 254.

With overall attendance of approximately 2,830 students on any given day, District 709's positivity and quarantine rates are at .03 percent and 1.05 percent, respectively, which compare quite favorably with the world outside our schools. Please see the chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative

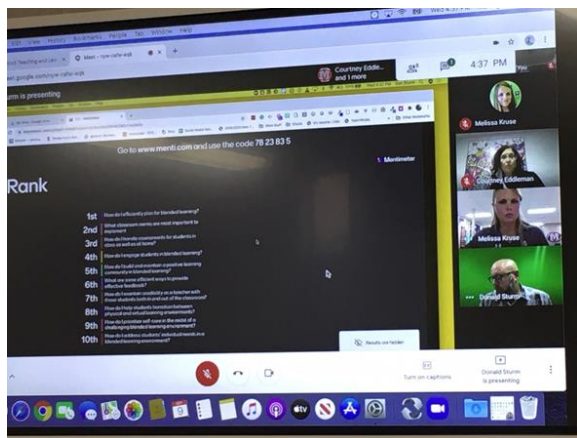
9/14/20 9/15/20 9/16/20 9/17/20 9/18/20

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative					
9/14/20 9/15/20 9/16/20 9/17/20 9/18/20					
Staff					
Covid-19 Positive	2	2	3	3	3
Quarantining	5	5	6	7	7
FT Remote Teaching	3	3	3	3	3
Students					
Covid-19 Positive					
Brown	0	0	0	0	0
Grundy	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
JH	1	1	1	1	1
HS	1	1	1	0	0
MA	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	2	2	1	1
	0.070%	0.070%	0.070%	0.035%	0.035%
Quarantining					
Brown	0	2	2	2	2
Grundy	0	0	1	3	1
Jefferson	1	1	1	5	2
Lincoln	14	14	13	13	13
JH	4	3	2	2	2
HS	62	49	27	10	10
MA	0	0	0	0	0
Total	81	69	46	35	30
	2.847%	2.425%	1.617%	1.230%	1.054%
Remote Learning	255	255	257	257	257
Homeschool/Private	84	84	84	84	84

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 help as we seek to preserve in-person learning, which we continue to believe is the best overall scenario, for many educational, social *and* health 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.

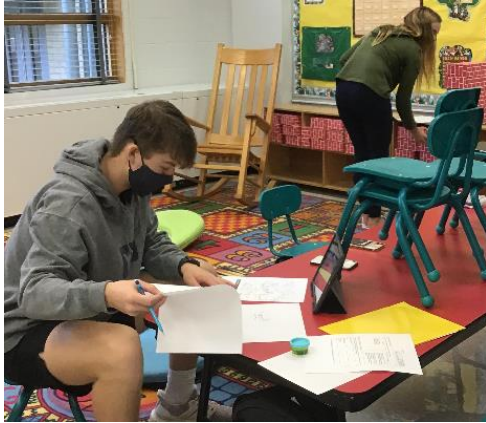
Beyond that, we would encourage everyone to read and become familiar with our [Healthy Quarantining Guide](#).

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 also welcome Morton residents at our School Board meetings, or encourage them to tune in [here](#). The next meeting is at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22. The Board will continue to



review our efforts in this unprecedented year, as well as approve its Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

We are happy to answer questions as they come up,

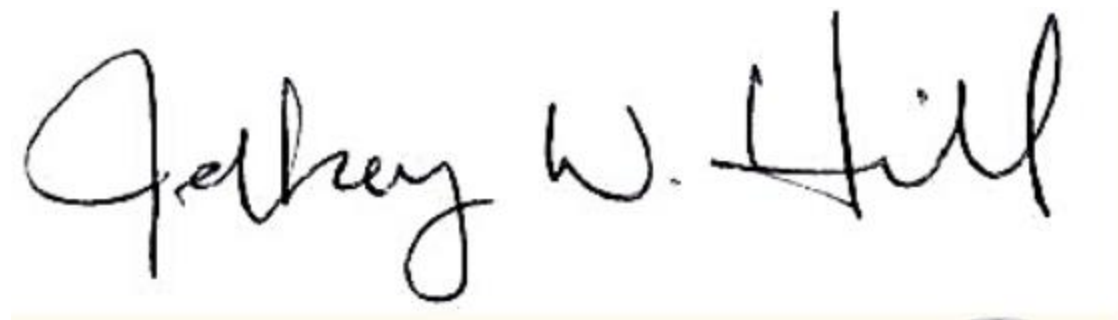


and again refer our families to our [Return to School Plan](#). If you have a concern, please contact your school principal, who will do his or her best to assist you.



Thank you again for your patience and cooperation, without which we could not make the progress we have thus far in keeping your children learning and in local classrooms. Let's keep it up.

Sincerely,



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