



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Sept. 25, 2020

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

It was again steady as she goes in Morton classrooms this past week, with three students absent due to a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis as of Friday, Sept. 25, compared to one at this time a week ago.

Student quarantines district-wide were at 35, relative to 30 last week. Eleven of those students are expected to return on Monday. Again, it has always been our expectation that these numbers will fluctuate.

Much the same was true on the staff front, with two positives compared to three last week. Meanwhile, seven are quarantining, same as Sept. 18. Four are due back on Monday.

At this point, seven weeks into the school year, we seem to have reached something of a baseline. Not that we want *any* students or staff ill or out of school, but if we could have predicted these numbers from the perspective of Aug. 1, before the school year started, generally we would have been pleased.

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.

With overall attendance of approximately 2,830 students on any given day, District 709's positivity and quarantine rates are at .105 percent and 1.23 percent, respectively, which compare quite favorably with the world outside our schools. Please see the chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative					
	9/21/20	9/22/20	9/23/20	9/24/20	9/25/20
Staff					
Covid-19 Positive	4	2	2	2	2
Quarantining	5	6	7	8	7
FT Remote Teaching	4	4	4	4	4
Students					
Covid-19 Positive					
Brown	0	0	0	0	0
Grundy	0	0	2	2	2
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
JH	0	0	0	0	0
HS	0	0	0	0	1
MA	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2	2	3
	0.000%	0.000%	0.070%	0.070%	0.105%
Quarantining					
Brown	2	2	2	2	2
Grundy	1	0	0	1	1
Jefferson	3	4	4	1	3
Lincoln	15	16	16	14	13
JH	3	4	4	5	5
HS	8	9	10	13	11
MA	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	35	37	39	35
	1.125%	1.230%	1.301%	1.371%	1.230%
Remote Learning	256	257	257	258	257
Homeschool/Private	84	84	84	83	83

What we are seeing locally apparently is being witnessed elsewhere, according to media reports. This [Washington Post story](#) reports that the fears of widespread

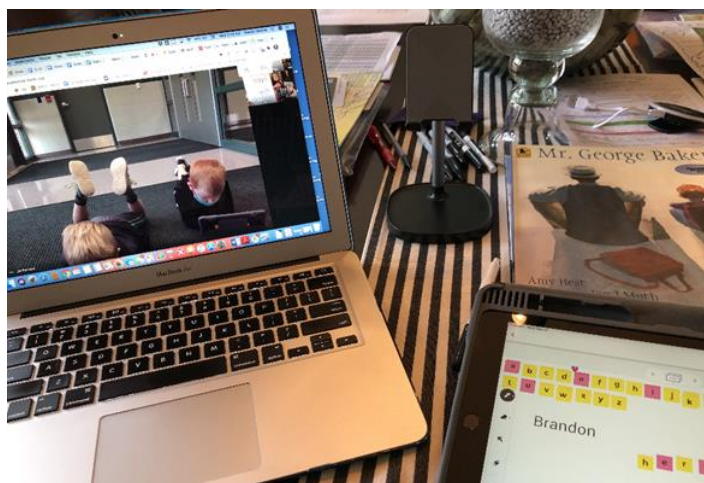


coronavirus outbreaks in the nation's classrooms, in those districts where students have returned, largely have not come to pass.

Back closer to home, we would emphasize that students who find themselves quarantined per the Tazewell County Health Department

are supposed to be avoiding social activities in general. 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 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

would not be experiencing the stability we are currently. Let's keep it up.

Sincerely,

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