



**MORTON**  
**UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**

Oct. 26, 2020

## **Additional quarantines authorized**

After many weeks of steady decline in COVID-19 positives and quarantines, Morton School District 709 has experienced a bump.

A Ward Grundy Elementary School teacher has received a COVID diagnosis, which prompted the quarantine of 15 students, all kindergarteners, on Monday. That followed Sunday's decision to quarantine all fifth- and sixth-graders, as well as several fourth-graders, at Lettie Brown Elementary School, where four positives – two students, two staff – were recorded. Morton Academy also was temporarily shuttered on Sunday after a staff member there tested positive.

To start this week, we also saw an uptick in Morton High School students isolating at home.

We have prepared for these contingencies, and the quarantined students now move into remote learning. The vast majority will be back in our classrooms within two weeks. Keep in mind that the quarantine applies to more than just school attendance. Our healthy quarantine guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

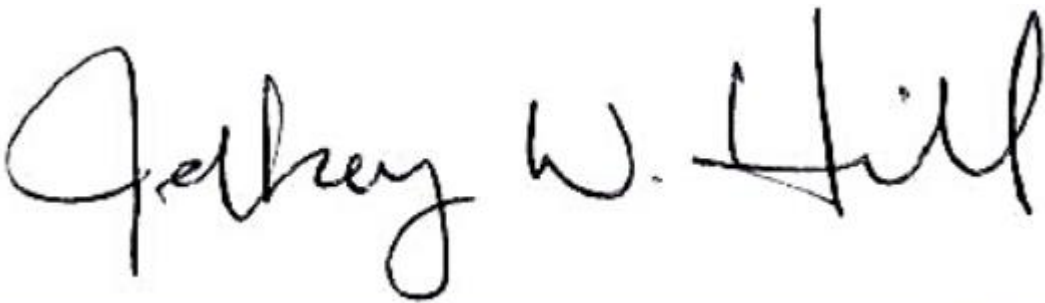
From the start of school in early August, it has always been our expectation that our COVID numbers would fluctuate. We are well aware that this pandemic can be unpredictable and that situations can turn in a hurry.

Again, we ask our families to pay close attention to any symptoms their children may be experiencing. We cannot stress enough the importance of parents *not* sending their children to school if the latter are not feeling well. Meanwhile, repeated hand washing, face covering and physical distancing are important safeguards against this virus.

While all of our schools have been getting deeper-than-usual cleaning this year, we will use this time to immediately and thoroughly sanitize all classrooms, bathrooms, staff lunch rooms, the office, lockers and other areas at the buildings that have been most affected.

Again, we thank everyone for their patience and understanding at a challenging time. Please continue to take precautions in protecting your own health and that of others. Doing so will improve the odds that this situation is a temporary one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D

Superintendent

Morton Community Unit School District 709