



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 16, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

Consistent with what's happening in the community outside our school doors, COVID diagnoses and quarantines jumped this past week, though they remain at levels that fall well short of alarm.

As of Friday, 17 students had been diagnosed with COVID-19, up from 11 on April 9, with 188 in quarantine relative to 50 last week. One staff member was positive, compared to three the week before, with eight in at-home isolation, up from six last week.

There have been sharp increases in COVID-19 cases in the Peoria metro region, which includes Tazewell County at an 11 percent positivity rate, launching the area into the top 10 in the nation.



Ms. Kolls' Advanced Speech class at MHS

"Exposures have been related to out-of-school activities like sports, dance, sleepovers, as well as gatherings with friends," the Peoria City/County Health Department told the [Journal Star](#) this past week. "With summer coming on, people gathering, and businesses reopening, we encourage residents to do what helped us from the beginning of the pandemic – when out in public and around

people who have not been vaccinated, wear face masks, social distance, use good hand hygiene, and get vaccinated when you can."

As a result of the spike, the state has dispatched more vaccines to this area.

On that latter front, the [Tazewell County Health Department](#) announced Friday that it will be offering Pfizer vaccines to students age 16 and older from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Monday, April 26, and on Monday, May 3. The second dose follow-ups will be 21 days later – on May 17 and May 24, respectively. Only Pfizer is available to teens.



Ms. Deverman conducts class at Jefferson Elementary

The injections will be administered at the health department's clinic at 1800 Broadway Road in Pekin. A parent or legal guardian must provide signed written consent for anyone under 18.

Appointments are required, and can be made [here](#).

Meanwhile, COVID concerns have prompted the postponement of Morton High School's livestream performance of "Shrek, the Musical" until next month. The shows will now be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 7-8. Tickets are available [here](#).

We ask that our families continue to monitor symptoms at home. Please continue to utilize our [COVID form](#). Our [Healthy Quarantining Guide](#) and our [Return to School Plan](#) should remain go-to resources, as well. The mask mandate continues. Please see this week's chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative

	4/12/21	4/13/21	4/14/21	4/15/21	4/16/21
Staff					
Covid-19 Positive	3	2	2	2	1
Quarantining	8	9	10	9	8
FT Remote Teaching	4	4	4	4	4
Students					
Covid-19 Positive Now					
Brown	2	2	2	2	2
Grundy	0	0	0	1	1
Jefferson	3	3	3	2	2
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
JH	4	4	4	3	3
HS	5	8	10	11	8
MA	1	1	1	1	1
Total	15	18	20	20	17
% Positive Now	0.527%	0.633%	0.703%	0.703%	0.598%
Quarantining Now					
Brown	23	24	28	28	28
Grundy	7	9	8	12	15
Jefferson	7	9	9	9	8
Lincoln	4	5	3	5	1
JH	17	20	20	29	29
HS	44	60	98	115	102
MA	5	10	10	5	5
Total	107	137	176	203	188
% Quarantined Now	3.761%	4.815%	6.186%	7.135%	6.608%
Remote Learning	146	146	146	146	147
Homeschool/Private	77	77	77	77	77

Friday marked our 153rd day of full-time, in-person instruction for the vast majority of our students in Morton District 709, so we are getting very near the end of this truly historic school year. We have tried to provide as traditional a school experience as we can, as these rights of passage are important to us as educators, to our students and their families. That will not change, if with some twists here and there.

That said, while we've enjoyed great success this school year, let us not be lulled into believing that we are immune to what happens beyond our doors. Let's continue to be smart as we go about our business. Again, thank you to the community for your trust and cooperation.



Ms. Bradford reads with kindergarteners at Brown

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored background.

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