



FSD145
Freeport School District

September 20, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

This weekend, we have been notified by the Stephenson County Health Department of two positive student COVID-19 cases in our district. The first case is from one of our students from Blackhawk Elementary. This case is unrelated to the first positive case at the school during Labor Day weekend. That student has since recovered. Our second positive case is from Freeport High School and a student who hasn't been on campus recently.

After further investigation, it has been determined by the Stephenson Health County Department (SCHD) that no student or staff from FHS has been impacted, therefore, there is no need for any student or staff to quarantine. We want to thank the individuals and families for taking quick action and reducing exposure to others by making sure that they kept their child home when they first became symptomatic. This truly is a difference maker in our fight against the spread of the virus.

Under the advisement of the SCHD, Freeport School District 145 has determined that it is unnecessary to close Blackhawk Elementary or Freeport High School at this time. At Blackhawk Elementary, the course of action that the SCHD recommended is to request that several families utilize remote learning for a period of time as a precaution. Although we have not received any reports of other students or staff members experiencing illnesses with symptoms resembling those of coronavirus, we want to be proactive in dealing with this second diagnosis in the school.

COVID-19 is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to continue to take the following preventive measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, lethargy, lack of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia. We will be more proactive in sending students home with COVID like symptoms to ensure the safety of other students and staff. Parents of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact their physician in case COVID testing is necessary. Students who are transitioning from in-person to remote learning due to a quarantine order will have no disruption to their learning. These students will be able to take their chromebooks and any other curriculum materials they need in order to participate in remote learning.

We appreciate your understanding as we remain committed to being transparent about positivity rates in our district and how we are dealing with known cases. Our partnership will continue to play a crucial role in the enforcement of our safety procedures to keep students and staff safe. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anna Alvarado

Superintendent

Freeport School District 145