



# FORRESTVILLE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #221

SUPERINTENDENT  
Mrs. Sheri Smith

December 07, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The past two days we have been working diligently to test students with symptoms and complete required contact tracing for all confirmed positive cases. I want to take just a few minutes to explain how we arrived at our decision to move to remote learning at the high school. As of this afternoon, Forrestville Valley has 21 positive cases district-wide: 19 at FHS, 1 at FJH, 1 at FGS, and 0 at GVGS.

As part of required contact tracing, we must determine if we have outbreak status. Outbreak status is defined as 3 or more positive cases linked in any one class period. Due to a high number of positive cases in a small school, we had multiple sections of 3 positive cases with confirmed links. The 19 cases at FHS were traced back to 86 close contacts. By the end of the school day today we had identified 105 students for required quarantine, or 42% of the high school enrollment.

With such a high number of close contacts, we are not able to implement test-to-stay protocol. Such protocol would require four tests per student, almost 350 tests, and we are currently under a Binax test shortage. With a number continuing to grow by the hour, and in consultation with Ogle County Health Department, we made the difficult decision to go to full remote learning from December 8th -17th for high school students only.

Due to the nature of remote learning, we also must cancel extra-curricular activities. This was a busy week for high school students with concerts, Madrigals, basketball games, and the kickoff to the holiday tournament. Over the next few days, we will be reviewing the calendar to reschedule our holiday concerts, as well as determine a return to activity date for coaches. Unfortunately, the holiday tournament has been canceled.

Remote learning is only implemented at the high school level. All students in grades PreK-8 will continue in person instruction. At this time, we plan to hold our junior high activities as well as our elementary Christmas concerts as scheduled.

I know this decision is met with frustration as we continue to navigate year two of ongoing changes around pandemic conditions and Covid-19. I simply wish I had better news to share with each of you.

Mr. Heinz has sent additional details regarding high school schedules, and he will continue to communicate over the upcoming days. If you are a high school parent, please be sure your student is logging in via zoom starting this Thursday.

I want to thank you again for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate the week ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith