



September 3, 2021

FCSC Families,

The Fayette County Board of School Trustees had a special meeting last evening to review and update our "Return to School Guidance" after the health department recommended that we return to wearing masks during this time of a Covid-19 surge. Our numbers of positive cases in our school corporation continue to increase and since school began, we are seeing a large number of students testing positive, which was not the case last school year when adults were testing positive at a significantly higher rate than students.

Governor Holcomb issued an executive order two days ago that required schools to follow the directives of the Indiana Department of Health with regards to masking and quarantining. Our school board was presented with two options at last night's meeting based on the Governor's order which expires on September 30th:

1. Make masks mandatory inside of our buildings, which would permit us to not have to quarantine "close contacts" in the school setting so long as masks were being worn by students and staff.
2. Or, do not require a mask mandate and quarantine all close contacts. As of September 2nd, we have identified 920 students as "close contacts" in the first 18 days of school. If we continue with similar numbers for the next 18 days, all of those students would have to be quarantined for up to two weeks if masks were not required.

While the Governor basically passed this down to the Indiana Department of Health and local school boards, he did make this a directive that provided our school board with a difficult decision. Ultimately the majority of our school board voted to take steps necessary with requiring masks to keep as many kids in school as possible so we are not quarantining hundreds of students weekly!

***As a result, we will begin requiring masks indoors in our buildings effective Tuesday, September 7th. This will apply indoors and on buses; however, outdoor activities do not require masks.***

If you would like to view our revised return to school plan, it is located on our district homepage-  
[www.fayette.k12.in.us](http://www.fayette.k12.in.us)

Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Scott Collins  
Superintendent