Dear Families of Frankfort CUSD #168:

Late yesterday, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), released updated guidance on COVID-19 protocols for schools that reflect the most recent update from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We have been reviewing those protocols today so that we can best implement them. Keep in mind, our primary purpose for existing is to “have school” meaning we want our students and staff attending in-person and actively learning in as safe environment. While we know and share the belief that extra-curricular activities of all kinds are important to our students and community, we must focus on our academic mission as we continue through this school year. We have seen improving academic results from our students and we want to build on that. We also see our COVID numbers rising and we want to limit those.

This is what we have pulled from the information and, in general, how we will implement it for STUDENTS and STAFF in Frankfort CUSD #168:

- If a person reports a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, they:
  > will be excluded from in-person attendance and should stay home a minimum of 5 days / maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or test collection.
  > may return after 5 days if no symptoms OR if fever-free without medication and have no gastrointestinal issues for 24 hours if other symptoms have improved.
  > should wear a mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school.

- If a person has symptoms of COVID-19, they will be excluded from in-person attendance until they either:
  1. receive a negative test result confirming symptoms are not attributed to COVID-19
  OR
  2. stay home a minimum of 5 days / maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or test collection.
  > They may return after 5 days if no symptoms OR if fever-free without medication and have no gastrointestinal issues for 24 hours if other symptoms have improved.
  > They should wear a mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school.

- If a person is determined to be a Close Contact (which includes those not fully vaccinated per the definition) to someone with COVID-19 and has NO COVID-19-like symptoms, they must either:
  1. Stay home for 5 days after the last contact with the person who has COVID-19
     - Upon their return to school, test for COVID-19 before returning to class
     - Wear a mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school.
  OR
  2. Students may choose the VOLUNTARY “Test-to Stay” option. Please read the following updates to that protocol:
     - Applies to students and staff who are a close contact with a COVID-positive student at school or while participating in a school event and are showing no symptoms.
Students and staff will be tested at school with a rapid antigen test (in our case, BinaxNOW test) on days one, three, and five from the date of exposure.

Students and staff then may stay at school and in class as long as they do not show symptoms, follow proper face covering protocols, and continue to test negative.

Students and staff will not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities including sports until after the Day 5 test is completed and the results are negative.

To voluntarily participate in the “Test-to-Stay” program, a student’s parent or guardian will need to have completed the required paperwork which can be found in our schools’ offices or on our website at www.wfschools.org. Complete those forms and return them to your school’s nursing staff so that we have it on file. Testing must be conducted at school by school staff and will mostly occur at the start of the school day before entering the classroom. If the close contact is identified five days or more from the date of exposure, testing schedules will be adjusted accordingly. When the sequence of testing is not possible due to weekends and holidays, students and staff will be tested at the earliest possible opportunity upon their return.

Finally, if a student is showing symptoms, we can test them at school. Again, we would need parent/guardian permission and will call you before we take any action.

If you have more detailed questions, please contact your student’s school and ask to speak to the nurse.

Again, if you are interested in opting in to this “Test-to-Stay” program, please have your student’s paperwork submitted to the District’s nursing staff as soon as you can. Thank you for your efforts in helping to preserve in-person learning for all of our students and for your patience as we navigate through this guidance.

Sincerely,

Matt Donkin
Superintendent of Schools