

Hancock Education Team,

As you know, we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in our community. We are not seeing the spread occur within our schools, the spread is mainly focused amongst those living in a household. Thankfully, we are also not seeing any of our staff, students, or parents becoming hospitalized. The symptoms vary between being asymptomatic, having a cold or dry cough, runny nose, fever, or the flu. The hospitals are treating an increased number of patients with colds and the flu, as that season is now getting underway.

In an effort to continue to safely educate our students we are following these protocols. Students must have parent permission to take the rapid COVID-19 test:

For students attending school.

If you test positive for COVID-19.

- You are to quarantine for 7 days after developing symptoms
- You must have no symptoms including fever for at least 24 hours before you can return to school after the 7 days.

If a student has come in close contact with a students or staff that has tested positive.

- The district will notify parents that their child was in close contact with a student or staff member that tested positive for COVID-19
 - o Parents must monitor their students for cold and flu symptoms
 - If they do not develop symptoms they can continue to attend school
 - If they develop symptoms, they are to stay home until they have gone 24 hours without symptoms.
 - o Parents will have a choice whether to continue to send their kids to school and monitor them for symptoms, or quarantine for their students for 7 days to see if they develop symptoms.

For students that have someone in their household test positive for COVID-19

- If you cannot isolate from the person that tested positive for COVID-19 in your household, you should quarantine for 7 days and monitor for symptoms
 - o If you develop symptoms you must stay home until you are free of symptoms for 24 hours, then you can return to school
- If you can isolate from the person that tested positive in your household, then you may continue to attend school but monitor for symptoms.
 - o If you develop symptoms you must stay home until you are free of symptoms for 24 hours,, then you can return to school

We continue to implement other cleaning measures to mitigate spread of any virus in our buildings. My apologies for those of you that are feeling chilly in our building, our air handlers are moving a lot of outside air through our buildings every hour to mitigate the spread of any virus.

If you have a student exhibiting symptoms of cold or flu, please have them call their parents to take them home. They can return to school after they have been symptom free for 24 hours.

The key to navigating our current situation and impending flu season is to ensure we all stay home when we feel sick, and return when we are symptom free. We must also continue cleaning measures like cleaning desks in your classroom periodically, another effective virus mitigation strategy.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for all you do to support our students and each other.

Steve Patchin

Superintendent – Hancock Public Schools