



Scot T. Prebles
Superintendent

Alana Cropper
Treasurer

Kim Pence
Assistant Superintendent

November 10, 2021

Dear Forest Hills Families,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked in conjunction with Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) while following the guidance from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide a safe educational environment for our students and staff. During this time there have been many adjustments to practices and protocols adhering to current information and recommendations from HCPH.

Based on recommendations released by the ODH and HCPH, along with the availability of vaccinations for our elementary-age students, I want to keep you informed of the latest changes in quarantine protocols.

Based on HCPH guidance, school districts may now adjust COVID-19 mitigation protocols for 5-11 year old students to “masks are recommended but no longer required” status. Under the new protocol FHSD students in kindergarten through grade 12 determined to be “close contacts” will be permitted to remain in school and to participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, provided that the parents and students agree to adhere to protocols outlined in the ODH “Mask to Stay/Test to Play” option.

It should be noted, on Friday, November 12, during a special meeting, county superintendents will seek specific guidance regarding Pre-K mask requirements from county health officials. Specific guidance for Pre-K parents will be forwarded by me once I fully understand county expectations.

Therefore, effective January 4, 2022, FHSD will implement the ODH “Mask to Stay/Test to Play” option for all students’ kindergarten through grade 12. Families may either opt to quarantine their child that has been identified as a “close contact” for up to ten days or exercise the following alternative to quarantine protocols:

As required by ODH & HCPH any student in a school or school-based activity/setting that is named as a “close contact” can continue to attend school if they remain symptom-free and masked. Note: *A vaccinated child or*

child wearing a mask during an exposure does not have to quarantine or mask upon return to school.

Mask to Stay

- Wear a mask for up to 14 days
- Self-monitor for symptoms
- Isolate/test if symptoms develop
- May discontinue after 7 days if:
 - No onset of symptoms
 - Negative test between days 5-7

Consistent with guidance for others quarantining in a low-risk environment, your child may discontinue these quarantine procedures after seven days if they do not develop symptoms and receive a negative test between days 5-7. This test can be a PCR or Antigen **but must be proctored** (for at-home testing) or done by a healthcare provider.

Test to Play

- Wear a mask when able (*this includes transportation, locker rooms, sitting/standing on the sidelines, and anytime the mask will not interfere with breathing, the activity, or create a safety hazard*)
- Test immediately upon notification of exposure (*and test negative*)
- Test again 5-7 days after notification. If they are negative at this time, they will test out of quarantine

For more information regarding pediatric vaccination providers and frequently asked questions, a HCPH link is available [here](#).

It is my hope that the HCPH and ODH options will provide our students and families more flexibility in making decisions while permitting opportunity for face-to-face instruction, as well as participation in various activities that enhance their learning experience. As always, the district will continue to monitor local, county, and state health data and make all necessary adjustments to ensure safe learning environments exist for all students.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation.

Respectfully,

Scot