

November 19, 2021

Dear Parents,

We are sending this letter to notify you that a staff member at Forest Academy , who works in many classrooms, has tested positive for COVID-19. This staff member was last in attendance on 11/17 and received a positive test result on 11/18. At this time, per MDHHS guidelines, all students are asked to self monitor for symptoms for 14 days. As long as students are symptom free, they are still able to attend school. No quarantine period is needed. A quarantine is only necessary if your child or someone in your household is showing symptoms or awaiting COVID test results. It is crucial that if someone in your household is exhibiting symptoms, awaiting test results or has had direct contact with someone who tested positive, that you keep your child home and contact us immediately. Please partner with us in limiting the spread so we can continue to offer in person instruction.

We are working closely with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KCHCSD) and will continue to follow their guidance.

Background on COVID-19: COVID-19 is a contagious viral illness that can occur 2-14 days after exposure to an individual with the virus. Exposure, also known as close contact, includes being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or longer. The virus is spread by droplets in the air, and sometimes on surfaces, that come inside a person's mouth, nose or eyes. Based on available evidence, the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children generally show no symptoms or mild symptoms. Reported symptoms include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, new loss of taste or smell, feeling out of breath and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

If your child does develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19, they should be kept home and the parent or guardian should contact their child's Primary Care Physician, Forest Academy and the KCHCSD.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 please contact your family's physician or the KCHCSD at 269-373-5044. If you have questions about the school response or protocols please reach out to Mrs. Smith at 269-488-2315 or by email at asmith@fbrcs.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Angela Smith
Principal, Forest Academy