

**January 26, 2021**

Dear Fayette County Public Schools families:

The seven-day average of COVID-19 cases has remained fairly steady over the past week – 193 today, compared with 197 a week ago – which keeps Fayette County in the purple range of the FCPS In-Person Learning Matrix. As a result, after meeting with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department today, **the determination for the week of Feb. 8-12, 2021 is to continue remote learning.**

However, one of the strengths of the FCPS In-Person Learning Matrix is that it allows us to consider multiple factors when determining the appropriate mode of instruction, including orders from the governor, student and staff absences, isolations and quarantines, operations and support considerations, community vs. institutional spread, community trends, and vaccine uptake.

Due to the fluid nature of COVID-19, we only finalize decisions two weeks out. However, we anticipate a graduated return to in-person instruction for students in grades K-2 whose families choose that mode of learning will be possible soon, due to the following data and transition factors. (Remote learning will continue to be an option for families who choose that for their children.)

- Many employees have already received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and will be eligible before then to begin receiving the second dose.
- The number of students testing positive for COVID-19 (resulting in isolations) this week has fallen to 65, compared with 132 last week.
- The number of staff testing positive for COVID-19 (resulting in isolations) this week has fallen to 30, compared with 38 last week.
- While cases are still high, community spread of COVID-19 has come down since the holiday spike and is holding steady.
- Current cases in the community are not the result of institutional spread within assisted living centers or detention facilities.

We will continue to review the data every day and keep you informed of decisions each week. Thank you for all you are doing to support your students at home.

Sincerely,

Marlene Helm, acting superintendent

Fayette County Public Schools