



FOUNTAIN HILLS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

16000 E. Palisades Blvd.
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
480-664-5000 PHONE
480-664-5099 FAX
FountainHillsSchools.org

October 28, 2020

Dear Fountain Hills Middle School Families and Staff,

The Fountain Hills Unified School District considers the health and well-being of our students and staff to be of the utmost importance. It is with that in mind that this letter is being sent home for your information. Today, October 30, 2020, we were alerted by Maricopa County Health Department that a FHMS student has tested positive for the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID 19). Your student may have been exposed to the virus. **Any students or staff who may have been potentially exposed have already been notified by the school administration.**

We understand that this news may cause you concern. FHMS is committed to implementing measures to protect students and staff from exposure to COVID-19 and to make sure you have all the information you need to make informed decisions about your health. Our students were following all the precautions, wearing their face coverings and do not meet the definition of “close contact”. “Close contact” means being within 6 feet of the confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case for more than 10 minutes, even if wearing a non-medical face covering. Please note that all information, including the name of an ill person, is confidential in order to protect privacy.

For now, please continue to observe your child/children over the next few days for any of the common symptoms of the Coronavirus, including:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headaches
- Muscle or body aches
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rash

Be proactive about reducing the number of interactions to limit the spread of the Coronavirus and practice good hygiene. Important public health prevention messages include:

- Stay home when you are sick. Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID 19 should remain at home in isolation for a minimum of 10 days plus at least 24 hours after the resolution of fever (without fever-reducing medication) and improvement in other symptoms.



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- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. .If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use their sleeve, not your hands, to cover their coughs and sneezes.
- Limit close contact with people who are sick, and avoid sharing food, drinks, or utensils.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- All students and staff should wear a mask or face covering

Individuals exposed through close contact must quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure in order to prevent illness in new persons. Quarantine means the student should not go to work, hang out with friends, go to social events, or come into close contact with another person even if they have NO symptoms until the 14-day period of isolation has passed.

People who have been exposed to COVID-19 are at risk of becoming ill for up to 14 days after exposure. If you haven't developed symptoms by that time, you are unlikely to develop symptoms from this exposure.

It is important that you continue to monitor yourself and your children for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If your children develop any ONE of the symptoms, please let us know, and do not send your child to school. See your healthcare provider and/or get tested with a PCR test (nose swab). This is the best test to determine if you are currently infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. If you are not sure where to go to be tested, please call 2-1-1 for more information.

We continue to communicate frequently with the Maricopa Department of Public Health (MCDPH) staff to guide us in contact tracing and mitigation protocols. Our goal is to continue to provide in-person learning at our schools unless the MCDPH would feel it is prudent to move a class to distance learning or in the case of a severe outbreak, to close a school temporarily and move to distance learning.

Sincerely,

Jeff Markle