



## **FMSD Return to In-Person Instruction**

As previously planned, the Fannett-Metal School District will be returning to in-person instruction on Monday, January 11, 2021. Please understand, while the district will be doing everything possible to remain open, the transmission rate within the community will ultimately decide whether we return to remote learning again. The district and staff will be doing everything we can to keep in-person instruction happening at FMSD, but with limited staffing options, everyone needs to be prepared of the likelihood that additional positive cases within our schools may lead to another 'temporary' closure.

With our transition back to in-person instruction, several specific calendar reminders are pertinent. As previously scheduled days off within the calendar, there is no school for students on Friday, January 15 (an Act 48 day), and Monday, January 18, 2021 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). In addition, the end of the first semester and second marking period will be on January 14, 2021.

As we return to in-person instruction, it is imperative to remind everyone the importance of adhering to the public mitigation orders issued by Dr. Rachel Levine, the Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), on November 17, 2020. The Order does require individuals to wear a face covering when out in public. A "face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth with material that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A *face covering* can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. A *face covering* may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or be improvised from household items, including, but not limited to, scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

The PA DOH indicates that wearing a cloth face covering is best; although, a disposable face shield is considered an alternative to a face covering and may be worn when wearing a face covering is otherwise not possible. Dr. Levine's Order applies to all students, staff, and visitors while in school or attending the Franklin County Career and Technical Center (FCCTC). Basically, everyone is required to wear a face covering as required by the Order unless they qualify for one of the exceptions in Section 3 of the Order (you may view the Order [Here](#)). Students are still permitted to remove their face coverings for the following circumstances:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least six feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least six feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes.

In addition, anyone who participates in any sporting activities (including coaches, athletes, and spectators) must wear a face covering at events, such as a mask, unless they fall under an exception in Section 3 of the Order. All Coaches, athletes, and spectators must wear face coverings, when indoors irrespective of physical distance. This includes when athletes are actively engaged in workouts, competition, and on the sidelines.

As a school district, we do understand that this recent school closure was difficult for everyone involved. However, this was a necessary proactive measure to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of not only our students and staff, but also our whole community. The school district will continue to monitor the county community transmissions rates and provide any essential updates.