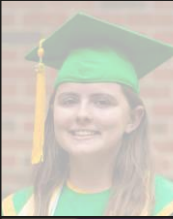


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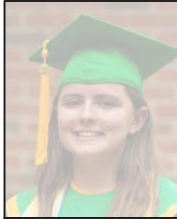
# OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Franklin County Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
February 14, 2022  
Dr. Rhonda Schuhler, Superintendent



# Current Status

- ▶ The month of January was challenging with staff and student absences due to COVID-19.
- ▶ Cases are decreasing significantly as we are now emerging on the other side of the Omicron spike.
- ▶ We are in communication with the Franklin County Health Department to examine our data and make adjustments to operational guidance based upon the latest information.
- ▶ The Franklin County Health Department has identified two indicators at this point for us to consider in determining when we can safely shift to a “masks optional” environment. They have identified these indicators as an “and/or,” meaning that we need to meet one or both of these data points in considering a transition to “masks optional” for students and staff.



# Data Point #1

**Percent of all Total Positives that are Ages 0-17 for Previous two weeks is at or below 14%:** This was the percent of all new cases (14%) for this age group in late August of 2020 before in-person schooling resumed early on in the pandemic, and came AFTER kids had been out of school buildings since March/April of 2020 (extended through the summer until they returned to school in late August). It is therefore a baseline for exposures that occur outside of the school setting since school was not in-session during that time period, which means any increase in this percentage **correlates** with in-school attendance and/or it implies a variant children are more susceptible to be infected by. We run the report that determines this on Mondays, and as of 2/14/22, this number was at 26% (down 2 percentage points from last week). However, as the overall number of new cases continues to decline, we know this percentage will translate to fewer and fewer actual people ages 0-17 (even if the percentage of these new cases remains high), which is why we also use the total number of cases ages 0-17 noted in data point 2. Here is the trend line from 9/25/2020 – 2/14/2022 for the percent of total positives that are ages 0-17 in the past two weeks:

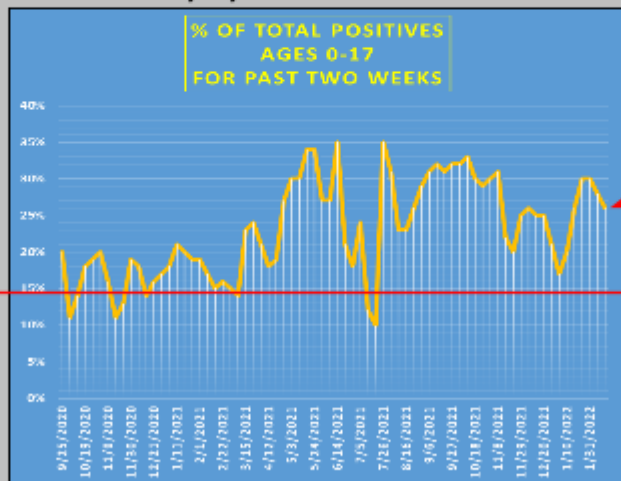




## Franklin County Community COVID-19 Dashboard: School-Specific Metric **Data**

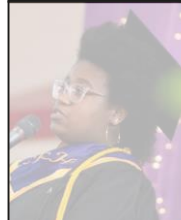
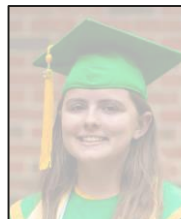
Updated: 2-14-2022

<https://covid19.ncdhs.gov/dashboard/cases>  
and  
NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System & NCCOVID  
9/25/2020 to Present



**Goal 14%**

**On 2/14/2022  
Ages 0-17 were 26%  
of Total New Cases.**



# Data Point #2

**Number of New Cases Ages 0-17 is at or below 100:** As the Delta-Variant transmission was subsiding (and before the Omicron Variant exploded) 100 new cases per two weeks in this age group was seen as the level of new cases that would keep overall impact in the entire Franklin County School system at or below acceptable levels of transmission. The overall number of students that this number generates as far as impact from COVID-19 Infection AND Exposure is the 100 or fewer new cases (who have to isolate) multiplied by the average number of people these children expose to the virus and therefore have to quarantine (average was 8 at a minimum) and results in the following:

**(100 positive cases Ages 0-17 in isolation past two weeks) x (8 contacts/case on average in quarantine) = 800 people out due to COVID** (which is roughly 10% of the total student population of the school district).

While ages 0-4 are included in this group (and are not usually in-school) they can expose siblings/parents and students who share their daycares/vans/buses and before/after-school programs and are therefore included in this total number. The report that determines this metric is also run on Mondays, and as of 2/14/22, this number was at 230 (down from 467- last weeks total). Here is the trend line from 9/25/20 – 2/14/2022 for the total number of new cases ages 0-17 in the past two weeks:

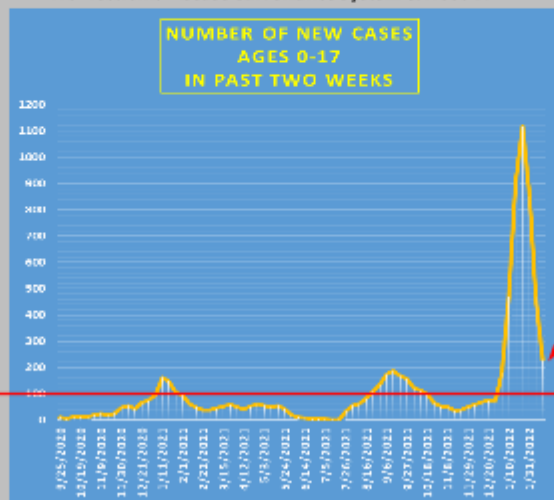




## Franklin County Community COVID-19 Dashboard: School-Specific Metric **Data** *Updated: 2-14-2022*

<https://covid19.ncdhs.gov/dashboard/cases>  
and

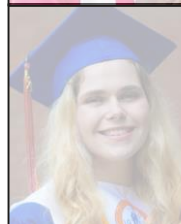
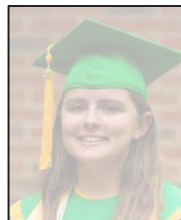
NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System & NCCOVID



**Goal is 100 or Less**

**On 2/14/2022  
There were  
230 New Cases  
In the past two weeks.**

**On 2/7/22  
There were 467.**



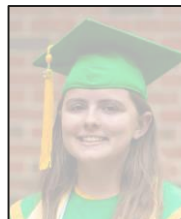
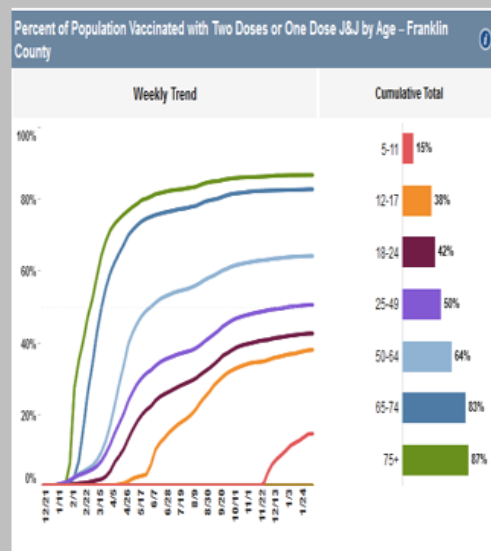
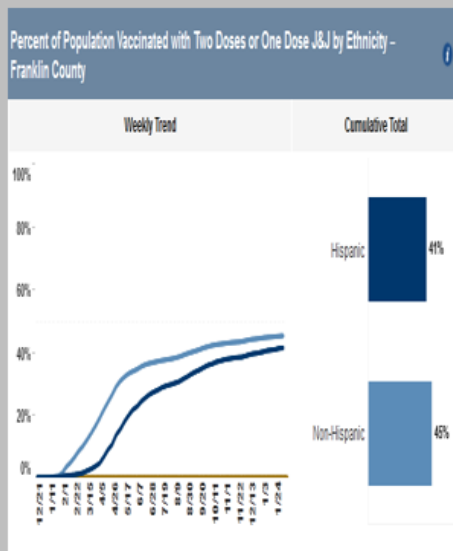
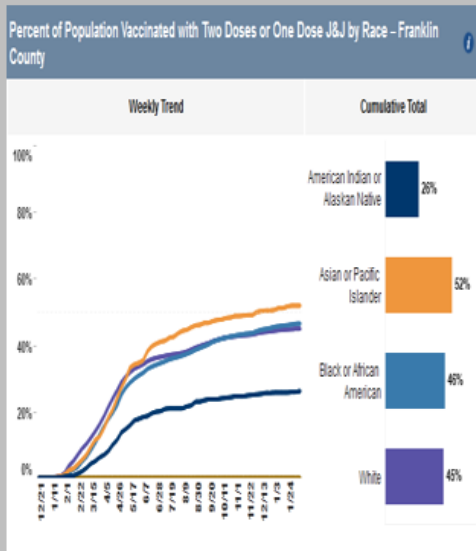
# Franklin County Community COVID-19 Dashboard: Community Metrics – Data

Updated: 2-10-2022

**Franklin County Initially-Vaccinated Information:** Total = **36,786** (All Programs)

Up **256** from (but 226 less new than) 1/27/22.

For the latest information, go to: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

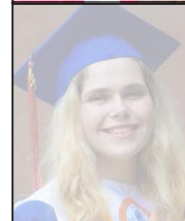
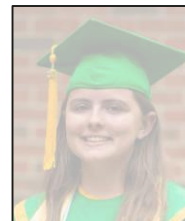


# Current Dashboard as of February 11, 2022



## COVID-19 Dashboard

Location   School	Total Current Positive Staff Cases	Total Current Positive Student Cases	Total Current Positive Cases	Total Cumulative Positive Cases	Total Cumulative Clusters	Total Cumulative Close School Contacts
FCS District	8	53	61	1703	5	791
Bunn Elementary School	1	2	3	125	0	12
Bunn High School	1	10	11	164	1	56
Bunn Middle School	1	4	5	117	0	25
Cedar Creek Middle School	0	0	0	110	1	49
Central Office	2	0	2	31	0	3
Edward Best Elementary School	0	5	5	135	0	34
Franklin County Early College High School	0	0	0	43	0	6
Franklinton Elementary School	0	7	7	76	0	60
Franklinton High School	1	9	10	216	1	42
Franklinton Middle School	0	3	3	72	2	198
Laurel Mill Elementary School	0	3	3	52	0	0
Long Mill Elementary School	1	3	4	99	0	27
Louisburg Elementary School	0	2	2	104	0	48
Louisburg High School	0	0	0	99	0	91
Royal Elementary School	1	2	3	81	0	58
Terrell Lane Middle School	0	2	2	104	0	44
Youngsville Elementary School	0	1	1	75	0	38





# Secondary SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in Schools: Evaluation of the Impact of Masking Policies

Masking policy	Districts, n (%) <sup>a</sup>	Students and staff, n	Total Primary Infections per 1000 students and staff per reporting weeks, n	Total Secondary Infections per 1000 students and staff per reporting weeks, n	Predicted secondary cases per 100 primary cases	95% Confidence interval	Relative Rate of Secondary Transmission	95% Confidence interval
Universal	46	1,228,513	125.6	7.27	5.8	3.62 – 9.27	--	
Partial	9	38,261	38.1	4.65	12.0	6.64 – 21.53	2.1	0.97 – 4.38
Optional	6	4576	38.9	13.99	43.5	30.99 – 61.10	7.5	4.21 – 13.42

- After adjusting our analysis for district size and the number of weeks reported to the study, some additional takeaways: optionally masked districts had 7.5 times the secondary transmission as universally masked districts – this equates to an 87% reduction in secondary transmission in universally masked schools compared to optionally masked schools.
- Another way to say this is for every 100 infections coming into school from the community, universally masked districts would be expected to have 5.8 secondary transmissions, while partially masked districts would have 12 secondary transmissions, and Optionally masked districts would have 43.5 secondary transmissions.



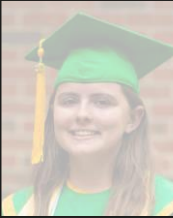
 **THE ABC SCIENCE**  
COLLABORATIVE



# Updated NCDHHS Toolkit Guidance (2.10.2022)

While contact tracing has been an important tool for slowing the spread of COVID at earlier points in the pandemic and remains important in certain high-risk congregate settings, individual contact tracing is a less effective tool for responding to the pandemic at this phase in other settings due to several factors that include:

- Emergence of variants with shorter incubation periods and more rapid transmission.
- Most contagious periods prior to symptom onset and during the first few days of illness.
- Large number of asymptomatic and less severe cases.
  - Many infections are never identified by public health agencies because persons with asymptomatic or mild cases may not get tested as well as the increasing use of over the counter at-home tests.
- Low proportion of all infections being detected or reported to public health during time when people are in their most infectious time period.



# Updated NCDHHS Toolkit Guidance (cont.)

For the reasons stated above, the impact of individual contact tracing on transmission during this stage of the pandemic may be limited in school settings. Therefore, individual contact tracing and exclusion from school after an identified exposure (regardless of location of exposure) is no longer recommended statewide in K-12 schools, effective February 21, 2022. Although exclusion from school is no longer recommended following an exposure, when a COVID-19 case is identified in the school setting:

- Schools should notify potentially exposed students or staff so they can receive appropriate public health guidance, testing, and access to any resources that might be needed; notification can be on an individual, group, or school basis
- People who have been notified of an exposure should\*\*\*:
  - o Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after the last known exposure, unless an exemption to face covering applies.
  - o Be tested immediately if symptomatic, and on day 5 after exposure, unless the person tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days. If school wide notification is done, at least weekly testing is recommended.

\*\*\*We are examining how we will operationalize this new guidance in our district



Updated NCDHHS Toolkit  
Guidance:  
February 10, 2022

All schools should:

- ❑ **Require all children and staff in schools K-12<sup>th</sup> grade** to wear masks consistently when indoors in areas of high or substantial transmission, as defined by the CDC.
  - Because students cannot mask consistently during mealtimes, students should maintain physical distancing of a minimum of 3 feet to the fullest extent possible when actively eating. Consider having meals outside where risk of virus transmission is low.

# Franklin County, North Carolina

[State Health Department](#) 

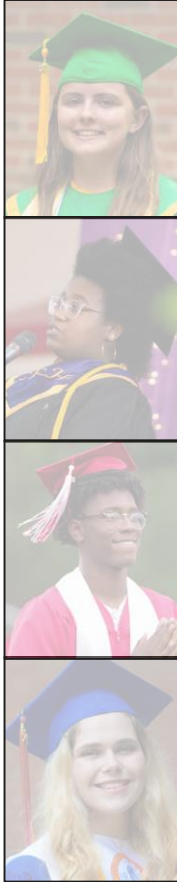
[7-day Metrics](#) | **7-day Percent Change**

Posted on CDC Website:  
February 14, 2022

Community Transmission

● High

Everyone in **Franklin County, North Carolina** should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.



# Important Points to Consider

We all are tired of wearing masks and want to shift to a “masks optional” environment as soon as it is feasible to do so.

When we make a switch to “masks optional,” keep in mind that masks will still be required on all buses (by students and drivers) as this is a **federal requirement and not a local decision.**

**Confirmed positive individuals who return in five days are still required to mask for five days. This is not an FCS decision.**

Cases are declining rapidly in Franklin County but we are still in the **“high transmission”** category as it stands today.

Data from the ABC Science Collaborative demonstrates that there are increased secondary transmissions in a “masks optional” environment, which makes it important for us to ensure that our number of positive cases is low in our schools prior to switching to “masks optional.”

This is important because just as we have families and staff who want to see a switch to “masks optional,” we have families and staff who are concerned about the health implications and they want to ensure that we are following the latest guidance. Our Board of Education has demonstrated a commitment to health and safety throughout the pandemic, and it is my recommendation that the district continue on this course.

**All projections indicate that we will be at that point where we can safely adjust the guidance to “masks optional” within the next few weeks. This shift is recommended as soon as it is safe to do so.**

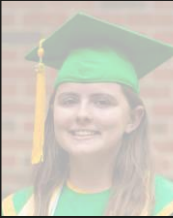


# Seeking BOE Approval:

## Masking

### Recommendation for BOE Consideration:

Postpone the monthly mask vote until February 28th, at which time we will reconvene with a special call meeting to determine whether we can safely shift to a “masks optional” environment.





# ESSER (COVID Response) Funding Update

**Total State and Federal Pandemic Relief Funding \$35,645,208 (2020-2024)**

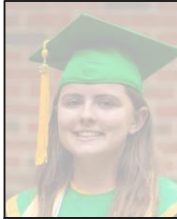
Local Educational Agency Use of Funds – 90% (10% State Reserved)

(At least 20% of funds must be used to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs.)

**Funds also can be used in the same way as ESSER I/II/III including :**

1. Coordinating with public health departments;
2. Conducting activities to address the needs of students from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
3. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity as well as assistive technology or adaptive equipment);
4. Summer learning, and supplemental after-school programs;
5. Mental health services;
6. Addressing learning loss;
7. School facility repairs to reduce risk of virus transmission and support student health; and implementing public health protocols including policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for school-reopening;
8. Implementing activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services and to employ existing staff.

COVID Relief (ESSER) funds come with clearly identified stipulations for use in these key areas. There is a detailed process for prior approval of use of these funds through NCDPI. **There are no requirements for masking, quarantining, etc. associated with receipt and use of these funds at the local level.**

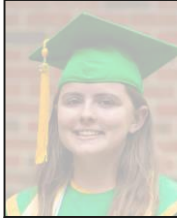


## State Small County and Low-Wealth Signing Bonus for Teachers (and Instructional Support)\*

State allotted funds to supplement FCS retention efforts, not to supplant existing funds

- Plan to include those that are also eligible for the local signing bonus, retention bonus and certified local supplement payments (classroom teachers, nurses, counselors, etc.)
- Hired on or after July 1, 2021, but no later than October 1, 2021
- Eligible for a one time state funded signing bonus in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the 2021-22 school year. This bonus is intended to reward first time teachers.
- Payments will be made to eligible staff as required by the NC Department of Public Instruction no later than February 28, 2022
- Recurring funds in current legislation to support newly hired eligible positions for 2022-2023

\*Senate Bill 105, Session Law 2021-180





# Current Substitute Teacher Daily Rates

Non-Certified \$81

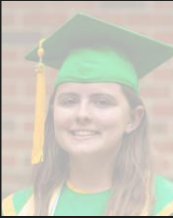
Certified \$105

With FCS Premium Pay

Non-Certified \$101

Certified \$125

Premium pay expires at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.



# Proposed Substitute Teacher Bonus

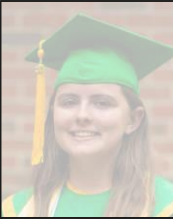
This proposed bonus focuses on substitute teachers that are taking jobs consistently throughout a given pay period.

The bonus would be an additional:

- \$101 for non-certified substitutes per pay period
- \$125 for certified substitutes per pay period

This would equal an additional day of pay for the respective substitute.

Eligible substitute teachers would need to work 11 days or more in a pay period. Most pay periods are 20 days, so this would equal working slightly more than half a pay period.



# Substitute Teacher Bonus

This proposed bonus would be effective from August 2021, so payment would be retroactive and run through the end of the school year.

## Benefits:

- Demonstrates gratitude for our dedicated substitute teachers.
- Rewards substitutes teachers that are consistently working or taking long term spots.
- Incentivizes substitute teachers to take more jobs, including in possible locations that they typically do not work.



# Seeking BOE Approval:

## Substitute Teacher Bonus

### Recommendation for BOE Consideration:

Implement a substitute teacher bonus that rewards substitute teachers for working consistently through pay periods for the 2021-2022 school year.

*Rationale: This bonus plan will reward substitute teachers for working over half a pay period. This rewards substitute teachers that are consistently working, taking longer term spots, and incentivizes substitute teachers to work consistently in a pay period.*

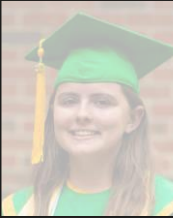


# Proposed Assistant Principal Bonus

Proposing a \$1,500 retention bonus for all assistant principals for the 2021-2022 school year. If approved, we would utilize ESSER funds to support this bonus.

## Benefits:

- Demonstrates gratitude for our dedicated assistant principals for their leadership and additional work during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Certified instructional support received a \$1,300 bonus and principals a \$1,800 in the state budget, while assistant principals did not receive a similar additional bonus.
- Rewards assistant principals who complete the 2021-2022 school year with FCS.
- This bonus would impact all 23 assistant principal positions.
- Bonuses will be prorated based on date of hire and employees must be employed at time of payment to receive the bonus (June 2022 payroll).



# Seeking BOE Approval:

## Assistant Principal Retention Bonus

### Recommendation for BOE Consideration:

Implement an assistant principal bonus that rewards them for their additional work during the COVID pandemic and acts as a retention bonus.



# Mental Health Support Update

## 2021-2022 Positions

- School Psychologist - 2 Full time, 1 Part-time (60%)
- School Counselors: 8 Elementary, 4 Middle School, 11 High School
- School Nurses: 10 (8 in schools, 2 in Central Office COVID response) as of 1/22 11 (9 in schools, 2 in Central Office COVID response)
- School Social Workers: 5 Full time, 1 Part-time (10 hours per week)

## 2020-2021 Positions

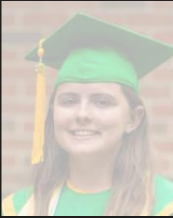
- School Psychologist - 2 Full time
- School Counselors: 8 Elementary, 4 Middle School, 11 High School
- School Nurses: 9 (8 in schools, 1 in Central Office Lead Nurse)
- School Social Workers: 4 Full time

## Additional supports include:

8 Contracts with Mental Health Providers funded by FCS to support student mental health needs while at school (New for the 21-22 school year)

14 MOAs with Mental Health Providers to provide mental health services in school

FCS has applied for a grant to provide de-escalation training to staff at our schools

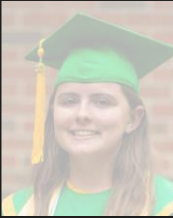


# Nursing Support Update

**Additional nurse position as of 1/22, additional nurse position for 2021/2022 school year, for a total of 2 full time additional School Nurse positions**

**10 total current Nursing Positions**

**Health assistant positions advertised at each school**





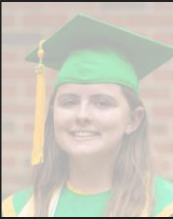
# Virtual Academy Update

- ▷ Currently, we have 113 students enrolled in FCSVA. Several students elected to return to face-to-face instruction for the spring semester.
- ▷ NC law prohibits FCS from continuing with the virtual academy program in 2022-2023. Senate Bill 654 states:

*No public school unit shall use virtual instruction to satisfy the minimum required number of instructional days or hours after June 30, 2022, without express authorization from the General Assembly, except for local school administrative units that were assigned a school code to operate a school with virtual instruction as the primary means of instruction as of May 1, 2021.*

*\*This legislation was enacted on August 30, 2021, with retroactive deadline for schools of May 1, 2021.*

**All Virtual Academy students must return to face-to-face instruction for the 2022-2023 school year.**



# Questions?

