

Will School Stay Open?

By Madison Lackey

As of November 19, Sterling High School is still open and offers in-person classes. The school is the only one still open this way in the county.

“Our goal has been to stay open since day one,” principal Phil Bressler said. “A goal of 170 days of in-person instruction. It isn’t up to us though, it is a matter of community spread and staff issues. Not having enough staff is usually what has been causing schools around here to close.”

The school has been developing a plan of doing hybrid learning after the upcoming holiday breaks to help reduce spread of potential viruses.

“We know that at the end of this week and the beginning of next week, all of our college students are coming home. Colleges around the state are closing up shop and sending students back home. Then we have Thanksgiving break where we got kids and families leaving and coming into town,” Bressler said. “So just the potential exposure increases the week after the break in a hybrid model would allow symptoms to show on those who might have contracted the virus. It would also allow us to maintain six feet distance in both the classroom and the eating areas, meaning if someone comes up positive, no one has to be quarantined.”

Some students are not completely against the idea.

“Honestly I am okay with it,” sophomore John Gillespie said. “I liked being online so I am kind of biased but I think we should either go hybrid or just fully remote from Thanksgiving break to Christmas break. Then hybrid for two to three weeks after Christmas to ensure we slow the spread of COVID-19.”

The final decision and inner workings will be decided before Thanksgiving break.