Bethany Public School District

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Dear BCS Community,

This correspondence serves as an update to the current levels of transmission of COVID-19 in the Town of Bethany and the Bethany Community School.

The Department of Health (DPH) continues to report town-level data for the number of new cases per 100,000 population and for the percent test positivity in the following dataset: COVID-19 Case Rate by Town. BCS reports zero new positive cases from November 14th through November 20th, at the time of this correspondence. The Town of Bethany is at a rate of 24.8 positive cases per 100,000 for the time period of November 1st through November 14th, putting the Town in the red zone. After reviewing local and school metrics, Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) supports our decision to adhere to the following pre-planned instructional models for the next two weeks.

Monday November 23rd	Tuesday November 24th	Wednesday November 25th	Thursday November 26th	Friday November 27th
Hybrid Model Last Names A-K In-person Last Names L-Z Remote	**Hybrid Model** Last Names A-K Remote Last Names L-Z In-person	**Remote Model** All Students Early Dismissal 1:10 pm	No School	No School

Monday November 30th	Tuesday December 1st	Wednesday December 2nd	Thursday December 3rd	Friday December 4th
Remote Model All Students	**Remote Model** All Students	**Remote Model** All Students Early Dismissal 1:10 pm	**Remote Model** All Students	**Remote Model** All Students

It is the District's intention to return to in-person learning on Monday, December 7, 2020. We will continue to consult with the local health officials and keep you informed of any new information. Please refer to Principal, Tom Reed-Swale's communications for more information and resources to support families/staff during the hybrid and remote learning phases. While we have thoughtfully planned for this transition, we anticipate there may be some "hiccups" once we launch full remote learning. In advance, we thank you for your patience, flexibility, and kindness as we navigate and overcome the challenges.

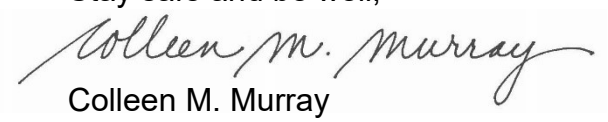
It is very important that during the periods of hybrid and full remote learning, families/staff continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the school nurse if a student/staff or a household family member tests positive for COVID-19 or has been identified as a close contact needing quarantining. Not only does this allow schools and health districts to contact trace efficiently – it will also provide us with information during our weekly meetings with DPH and QVHD to determine the appropriate instructional model to use based on current data.

On behalf of DPH and QVHD, we have been asked to remind our entire Bethany school community about the necessity to act in a responsible and safe manner, especially during this holiday break. Health officials are asking Connecticut residents to consider limiting their travel and decreasing the mobility between people. In social gatherings, the need to practice health safety including the use of face coverings, physical distancing, and hand hygiene, continues to be paramount. If families/staff must travel over the holiday they need to adhere to the Travel Advisory guidelines before students/staff can return to school/work.

We continue to be grateful for the hard work and ardent efforts of our entire school community in support of teaching and learning and each other as well. Although these are challenging times, and our holiday celebrations might look differently than they have in the past, we have a great deal to be thankful for. Look for, and embrace, those "silver linings."

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support, and we wish each and every one of you a very Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.

Stay safe and be well,



Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent