Bethany Public School District

Colleen M. Murray, Superintendent of Schools

44 Peck Road
Bethany, Connecticut 06524
cmurray@bethany-ed.org

Phone (203) 393-1170
Fax (203) 393-0239
www.bethany-ed.org

December 18, 2020

Dear BCS Community,

I hope everyone found time to enjoy the first snowfall of the season this week. We are fast approaching the holidays and a much-deserved break in the action before ringing in the new year. Here's to "out with the old and in with the new."

This correspondence serves as an update to the current levels 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. While BCS reports one positive case from December 12th through December 18th, the Town of Bethany reports 42 positive cases with a rate of 54.8 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of November 29th through December 12th.

Based on this information and in consultation with our local health advisors, BCS will remain open for in-person learning the week of Monday, December 21st.

It is our intention to deliver instruction, in-person, next week for 2½ days then break for the holidays until January 4th. The week of Monday, January 4th to Friday, January 8th is pre-scheduled for remote learning.

Monday January 4th	Tuesday January 5th	Wednesday January 6th	Thursday January 7th	Friday January 8th
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

Free Lunch will continue to be provided during this time period. Look for more information in future communications.

The BOWA school districts will reevaluate updated metrics on Friday, January 8th in collaboration with local health departments to determine the safest plan for the following week Monday, January 11th to Friday, January 15th. A follow-up letter will be sent on Friday, January 8th communicating the plan.

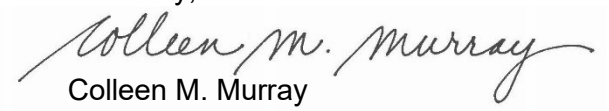
It is very important that during the periods of full remote learning, families/staff continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the school nurse if a student/staff or a household family member tests positive for COVID-19 or has been identified as a close contact needing quarantining. 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 Quinnipiack Valley Health District (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 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. Continue to 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 Happy Holiday and a Brighter New Year.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent