Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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Dear BCS Community,

This correspondence serves as an update to the current levels of COVID-19 in the Town of Bethany, and the Bethany Community School, as well as the instructional model decision for next week. Also included in this letter is important information regarding reporting, travel, and quarantine guidelines.

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 zero positive cases this past week, the Town of Bethany reports 57 positive cases with a rate of 74.3 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of December 27th through January 9th.

The District remains committed to providing in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible while mitigating health risks to students and staff. Based on the most recent COVID-19 metrics for Bethany, and in collaboration with our local health advisors at Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD), **Bethany Community School will remain in-person learning for the week of Monday, January 18th**. Don't forget, there is no school on Monday, January 18th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Our families are critical to our efforts supporting the safe opening of schools and there are several steps we can all take to help everyone stay safe and to continue in-person learning.

Please read the following information carefully:

Quarantine Guidelines

At this time, the BOWA local health districts, and our school medical advisors, are NOT recommending reduced quarantine for students. **A 14-day quarantine will be required for all students who are identified as a close contact to a positive exposure.**

Responsible Reporting

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the School Nurse, Jennifer Bobok, at jbobok@bethany-ed.org or Nurse Cheryl Santore at csantore@bethany-ed.org if a student/staff, or a household family member tests positive for COVID-19 or has been identified as a close contact needing quarantining.

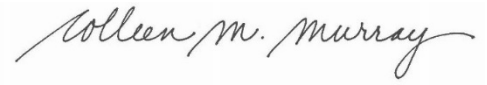
Travel Advisory

Families/Staff must adhere to the Travel Advisory guidelines before students/staff can return to school/work.

Our health department and medical advisors strongly recommend a PCR test vs. Antigen Test due to better accuracy and reliability.

The goal of having children attend school, in-person, is only safe when a community works together to control transmission and the spread of the virus. Therefore, your ongoing cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent