Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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January 22, 2021

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 a change in the BCS nursing staff and COVID reminders.

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 this past week, the Town of Bethany reports 50 positive cases with a rate of 65.2 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of January 3rd through January 16th.

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 25th**.

Change in BCS Nursing Staff

It is with a heavy heart that I report BCS Nurse Jennifer Bobok recently gave the District her notice. She was offered a position she couldn't refuse as a Public Health Nurse, but remains committed to helping BCS whenever possible. Jen has been very supportive throughout this pandemic from the reopening of BCS to ongoing contact tracing, record keeping, and communication. Jen has provided excellent care for our students, staff, and families, and we are sad to see her leave our school family but wish her well in her future endeavors.

The full-time school nurse's position has been filled by Cheryl Santore. Cheryl is a Registered Nurse and has served BCS for a number of years as a substitute in the nurse's office. Most recently, Cheryl has been working alongside Nurse Jen since the beginning of the school year as the BCS part-time nurse's assistant. We are thrilled to transition Cheryl into the full-time position.

IMPORTANT: Nurse Cheryl's contact information is: csantore@bethany-ed.org, BCS (203) 393-3350 x615 or cell (203) 494-8156.

Our staff and families are critical to our efforts to help everyone stay safe and to continue in-person learning. I am very grateful for your ongoing support. Please refer to previous correspondences, which can be found on the District's Website for mitigating strategies and health guidelines.

Responsible Reporting

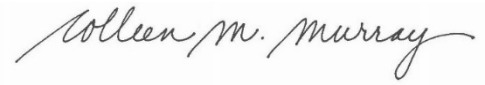
Please continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the school nurse, Cheryl Santore at csantore@bethany-ed.org, BCS (203) 393-3350 x615 or cell (203) 494-8156 if a student/staff, or a household family member tests positive for COVID-19 or has been identified as a close contact requiring quarantining.

Recreational Sports

Our medical advisors, local health department, and I are extremely concerned that students are starting to participate in various recreational sports programs. We saw a significant increase in positive cases and quarantines back in the Fall as a result of recreational activities. I've been asked by our local health officials to please remind everyone to act responsibly and take necessary precautions.

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