Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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Dear BCS Community,

I hope you are getting the chance to enjoy some of this spring-like weather, especially with Daylight Savings Time this weekend.

This correspondence serves as an update to the current levels of COVID-19 in the Town of Bethany and in the Bethany Community School (BCS), as well as the instructional model decision for next week.

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 positive cases this past week and the Town of Bethany reports 3 positive cases with a rate of 3.9 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of February 21st through March 6th. This recent data keeps Bethany out of the red zone and into the grey zone.

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), **BCS will remain in-person learning for the week of Monday, March 15th**.

While reports of positive cases at BCS and in the Bethany community are on the decline, our quarantine numbers at BCS are on the rise with the increase of social activity opportunities and warmer weather. Please remain vigilant in your efforts to social distance, wear a face mask, and wash your hands frequently.

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 if student/staff has been identified as a close contact requiring quarantining. In order to determine an individual's quarantine time and return to school/work date, we must ask questions regarding their exposure which requires your cooperation. Thank you in advance.

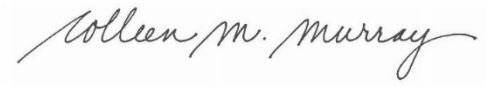
Please do not send your child to school to be assessed by the nurse if they are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms. By doing so, our chances of controlling transmission and preventing quarantines become challenged.

Travel Advisory

Superintendents are still waiting for travel guidance from the State Department of Education, Department of Public Health, and our local health directors. I hope to have more information on travel requirements in next week's update.

Thank you to all the staff and families who are working collaboratively with the school to keep everyone safe. 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. Your ongoing cooperation and responsible reporting is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent