Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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May 28, 2021

Dear BCS Community,

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 <5 positive cases with a rate of <5 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of May 9th through May 22nd. Bethany remains in the Gray 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 Tuesday, June 1, 2021**.

Mask Wearing

Per Governor Lamont's Executive Order 12A, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must continue to wear a face-covering mask at all times and maintain social distance when inside public or private school buildings (PreK-12). I have received a few questions/comments regarding the wearing of masks outside. DPH provided superintendents the following guidance this week, "When children and staff are out at recess and moving around they do not have to wear masks. If they are congregating in small groups socializing outside they need to wear masks." Although there isn't such guidance specific to adults on campus, the District is respectfully requesting that unvaccinated individuals, and those that are not socially distanced, please remain masked while on campus. Thank you.

Open Forum Roundtable

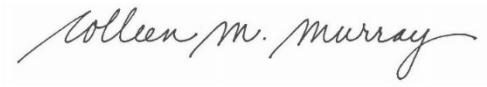
On June 1st at 6:30 pm via Zoom, Board chair, Dr. Chris Pittenger, and I will facilitate an Open Forum Roundtable discussion to obtain public comment in order to inform the Bethany Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, as required by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which is due to the CSDE on or before June 23rd. After the Open Forum, surveys will be distributed to staff and parents as another means of gathering feedback.

Responsible Reporting

Please continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the BCS Nurses' Office at (203) 393-3350 x615 or Tom Reed-Swale at treed-swale@bethany-ed.org or (860) 933-2381 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. Please do not send your child to school to be assessed by the nurse if they are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms. Please do not give your child fever-reducing medicine and then send them to school. By doing so, our chances of controlling transmission and preventing quarantines become significantly challenged.

There are nine school days left until a well-deserved summer break for all. If we all continue to work together, with the goal of keeping our school open and do all we can to keep each other healthy and safe, we will have a successful end to this school year and Finish Strong! Thank you to all the staff and families who are working collaboratively with the school to keep everyone safe. Your ongoing cooperation and responsible reporting is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent