



BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 29, 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Franklin Elementary School to Extend Remote Learning through Wednesday, March 31; Students Expected to Return to In-Person Learning on Wednesday, April 7

Ben Franklin Elementary, which is already in full remote instruction Monday and Tuesday of this week, will also go to full remote instruction on Wednesday, March 31, the final day of classes before Spring Break. The students will return to in-person learning on Wednesday, April 7. The change was necessitated by a fifth positive COVID-19 diagnosis at the school within the same 14-day window, the most recent of which was disclosed late this afternoon by a staff member. The staff member was last in school on March 25.

The decision is in keeping with the direction of the PA Dept. of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department. Teachers will work from home as well as the school district completes contact tracing and thoroughly cleans the school with an increased emphasis on the areas impacted by these cases.

In accordance with Bethel Park's health and safety protocols, the individual will remain isolated at home until his or her symptoms have passed and he or she has been cleared by a medical professional as being no longer contagious.

Anyone who is considered to have been in close contact with this individual has been informed of the situation and has been instructed to follow the required quarantine at home protocols for 10 days. Please be aware that quarantining in this situation does not necessarily mean that these other individuals have tested positive for COVID-19. It simply means that they may have been exposed to the virus, and therefore they must remain quarantined to avoid potentially spreading it to others.

If you have not been contacted with specific instructions, it means that you or your student has not been exposed to COVID-19 through these cases and therefore should continue as scheduled without interruption.

Please note that all of the case counts listed on our COVID-19 dashboard are not necessarily reflective of active cases in our schools. We intend to continue to list on our dashboard every positive COVID-19 case reported to us among all Bethel Park students and staff. However, communications will be sent out only when we have active cases of students or staff who have reported to our school grounds or if there is a change in any of our schools' operational status.

As a reminder, if you or a child in your care test positive for the coronavirus, you must inform your school nurse or school administration as soon as possible and begin isolating immediately. Going forward, our families will have an even greater level of responsibility to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus in Bethel Park schools.

Sincerely,

James Walsh, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Bethel Park School District