



BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 4, 2022

Dear Bethel Park Families,

Re: COVID-19 Report: Jan. 4

Over the break, and through today, more than 130 students and staff at Bethel Park schools have reported testing positive for COVID-19. We had hoped to send out a communication yesterday regarding the surge in cases but we were still collecting the data and working with families who had been directly impacted and we wanted to make sure that we were providing the most accurate information possible.

The total cases and most recent days in school for each case were:

- Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (12): Jan. 4
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (20): Dec. 23
- Memorial Elementary School (22): Dec. 23
- William Penn Elementary School (6): Dec. 23
- George Washington Elementary School (12): Dec. 23
- Neil Armstrong Middle School (14): Dec. 23
- Independence Middle School (13): Dec. 23
- Bethel Park High School (32): Dec. 23

Bethel Park School District's health and safety protocols mandate that those individuals will remain isolated at home until their symptoms have abated and they have been cleared by a medical professional as being no longer contagious.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please notify your child's school nurse as soon as possible. If anyone in your home is demonstrating symptoms even semi-consistent with COVID-19 (fever, headache, muscle or body aches, congestion, loss of taste or smell, etc.), we urge that you **keep them home from school** and make an appointment to see your family's pediatrician or at a certified testing site and have them administer a PCR or a Rapid/Antigen test. **Any student that stays home from school while they await the results of a PCR or Rapid/Antigen test will be granted an excused absence** with the proper documentation of the test results or a letter from their health care provider.

Finally, Bethel Park School District will **continue to require universal masking for all individuals in our facilities and structures regardless of vaccination status, while Allegheny County remains at the high or substantial level of community transmission of the coronavirus**, as [defined by the Allegheny County Health Department](#). Should the county's community spread levels dip to moderate or low for at least one week, masks would then become optional.

Sincerely,

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