



March 14, 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Washington Elementary School to Shift to Remote Learning; Students to Return to In-Person Learning on March 18

George Washington Elementary School will shift to remote instruction, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, with students scheduled to return to in-person learning on Thursday, March 18. The change was necessitated by a second positive COVID-19 diagnosis at the school over the past few days, the most recent of which was disclosed this morning. The decision is in keeping with the direction of the Pennsylvania Department 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 individuals will remain isolated at home until their symptoms have passed and they have been cleared by a medical professional as being no longer contagious.

Anyone who is considered to have been in close contact with these individuals 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,

Joseph C. Dimperio, Ph.D.
Acting Superintendent, Bethel Park School District