



BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 23, 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Independence Middle School to shift to remote learning on Wednesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 25; students will return to in-person schooling Monday, March 29

Independence Middle School will shift to remote instruction, Wednesday and Thursday of this week (March 24-25) with **students expected to return to in-person instruction, Monday, March 29**. The decision comes after the disclosure of a fourth positive COVID-19 diagnosis at the school within the past two weeks, the most recent of which occurred this morning. A high school student also reported testing positive for COVID-19 today. The students were each last in school March 18.

The decision to shift to remote learning is in keeping with the direction of the PA Dept. of Health and the Allegheny County Health Dept. Teachers will work from home 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 School District'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 the 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 the student and therefore should continue as scheduled without interruption.

Please note that for transparency reasons, our [COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is located on the District's website, lists all reported case counts involving Bethel Park School District students and staff, regardless of their educational pathway. A separate graphic at the bottom of the page lists the number of active cases among in-person learners and staff. Communications are sent out only when we have active cases of students or staff who have reported to any of our schools 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