



BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 4, 2022

Dear Bethel Park Families,

Re: Latest COVID-19 Guidance

Over the Winter Break, in accordance with the [latest direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the Allegheny County Health Department has released [new guidance for isolation and quarantining procedures](#) for local school districts. Under the new protocols, those who test positive for COVID-19 are **required to stay home for five days, after which they may return provided they are fever-free for at least 24 hours and their symptoms are improving.** The new guidance also requires that all positive cases **must continue to wear a well-fitting mask for the next five days when around others.** The District recommends that anyone returning from quarantine or isolation should wear a well-fitting mask to help prevent community spread.

If anyone in your home is demonstrating any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, headache, muscle or body aches, congestion, loss of taste or smell, night sweats, 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.

It is imperative that everyone understands that the recent COVID-19 surge is impacting every aspect of the School District's operations. We are particularly concerned about transportation-related issues as we were already facing a national school bus driver shortage. **A few cases of COVID-19 among our school bus drivers could lead to disruptions in service including some missed bus routes, delays or even a transition to remote instruction.** We are asking that our families please prepare for all of those possibilities.

If you have any questions regarding our procedures, we encourage you to consult our recently revised [Health & Safety Plan](#). Also, if you have any specific questions or information to report, please send those to the District's dedicated email address, covidquestions@bphawks.org. Any questions submitted after 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or over the weekend, will be answered as soon as possible in the order in which they were received. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience and understanding as our nurses are working to address the surge in COVID-19 cases among Bethel Park School District students and staff.

Sincerely,

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