

October 28, 2020

Dear Families,

Earlier today, the District learned that a staff member at Bethel Memorial Elementary School has tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with the District's health and safety protocols, the individual had already begun to quarantine and will remain isolated at home for at least the next 10 days until their symptoms have passed and they have been cleared by a medical professional as being no longer contagious.

This was Memorial's second known potential COVID-19 exposure within the past week, which means that in accordance with our health and safety protocols, and out of an abundance of caution, **Memorial will temporarily suspend all in-person instruction beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 28, with students returning on Monday, Nov. 9.** During that time, Memorial students will instead exclusively use the District's Remote Learning Model. All other Bethel Park schools will remain unaffected by this news.

Please note that a key consideration in our decision to temporarily close Memorial is that with so many teachers and other staff members required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days, it is impossible to properly staff the building for in-person instruction.

Anyone considered to have been in close contact with that individual has been informed of the situation and has been instructed to follow the mandatory quarantine at home protocols for two weeks. 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 in order to avoid potentially spreading it to others.

If you have not been contacted with specific instructions, it means that you or your student have not met the minimum exposure threshold established in the District's health and protocols and therefore should continue as scheduled without interruption.

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.

Please continue to follow all mandated social distancing and personal safety practices, including wearing proper and approved face-coverings, maintaining at least six feet of personal distance from others whenever possible, proper hand-washing for at least 20 seconds each time, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently-used or shared spaces, items, and surfaces. This is a highly infectious disease and we all must do our very best to mitigate its potential spread.

We wish a full and speedy recovery to any individuals in our District who experience the coronavirus. We look forward to seeing them once they are deemed healthy enough to safely return to school.

Sincerely,

Joseph C Dimperio, Ph.D.

Acting Superintendent, Bethel Park School District