

October 28, 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Bethel Memorial Elementary School

Late last night, we received word that another staff member at Bethel Memorial Elementary School has tested positive for COVID-19. Unfortunately, that person had close contact with at least five teachers, each of whom are required to quarantine for at least 10 days in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's guidelines.

Given the rising number of positive cases over the past several days and potential exposure at the school, and to maintain adequate staffing levels amongst our teachers, we are now forced to suspend in-person learning in that building until at least **Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020**.

While we understand that these closures can be incredibly frustrating for families and staff alike, a fundamental consideration when closing any of our schools is the District's ability to properly operate our buildings while staff members are compelled to quarantine for up to two weeks at a time. There simply are not enough local substitute teachers to make up for the shortfall.

Anyone considered to have been in close contact with the 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.

Sincerely,

Joseph C Dimperio, Ph.D.

Acting Superintendent, Bethel Park School District