



April 26, 2021

Dear Families,

***Re: Positive COVID-19 test reported at the High School, IMS and NAMS***

Over the weekend and today, four members of the Bethel Park School District community reported testing positive for COVID-19. The most recent day any of them were in District schools was April 20. The impacted schools included:

- Bethel Park High School (2 students)
- Neil Armstrong Middle School (1 student)
- Independence Middle School (1 staff member)

BPSD's health and safety protocols mandate that the individuals will remain isolated at home until their symptoms have abated 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 BPSD students and staff, regardless of their educational pathway. Phone calls home are made only when there is a change in any of our schools' operational status.

Finally, in recent weeks, the majority of District staff and a large percentage of our families have been inoculated with either the Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Those vaccines are all showing very high potency – particularly when it comes to serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. However, it is important to note that none of them have a 100% efficacy rate. We have seen multiple cases of staff and/or students testing positive for COVID-19 *after* having been vaccinated. That is why all District staff and families are to continue to follow the same health and safety protocols we have successfully adopted throughout the school year (social distancing, regularly washing your hands, wearing masks in school, etc.).

It is imperative that we not be lulled into a false sense of security when it comes to the coronavirus or our spread mitigation measures. Please continue to maintain social distancing, regularly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds in warm soapy water and continue to wear a mask that completely covers up your nose and mouth areas. Also, if anyone in your family is under the weather on a given day, and their symptoms are even semi-consistent with COVID-19, please err on the side of caution and stay home from school and see a medical professional – even if you/they have already been vaccinated.

We are definitely much better off now than we have been in more than a year. However, we are not yet out of the COVID-19 woods and it would be foolish and dangerous to our community to assume otherwise.

Sincerely,



# BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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