



BETHEL PARK

S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

Saturday, November 14, 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Positive Cases at Bethel Park High School, Independence Middle School and George Washington Elementary School

Over the past two days, two students at Bethel Park High School have tested positive for COVID-19, compelling the District to temporarily close that school until Wednesday, Nov. 18. **High School students in the hybrid learning track will learn remotely on Monday and Tuesday.**

The District has also learned of two additional unrelated positive COVID-19 diagnoses among our staff: one at Independence Middle School and one at George Washington Elementary School. However, due to limited contact with other staff members and students, there is no additional District impact at this time. **Students at both IMS and George Washington Elementary in the A group of the hybrid learning track are expected to report to school on Monday, Nov. 16.**

In accordance with the District's health and safety protocols, these individuals will remain isolated at home until receiving medical clearances to return to school.

We are in the process of reaching out to those who may have been in close contact with these individuals. Close contact is defined as spending 15 minutes or more within six feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you have not been contacted with specific instructions, it means that you or your student have not met the minimum exposure threshold in the District's health and safety protocols.

These cases have triggered contact tracing and are being watched closely for a possible connection to other potential cases. That said, there could be a day in which the District may need to close one or more school buildings due to elevated contagion rates within the Bethel Park School District community. If and when such connections are identified, it will be determined which building(s) may need to close and for how long.

With the holiday season upon us, some experts are warning that positivity rates could increase. Should we be compelled to close schools and shift to remote learning, the District will provide notification in a timely manner, so that families may plan accordingly. However, as we have all learned by now, the situation can change rapidly as the District receives new information.



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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, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently-used or shared spaces, items, and surfaces.

We encourage parents and guardians to continue monitoring their children closely for symptoms. As a reminder, if your child exhibits any of the symptoms below, please contact our Pandemic Response Team at covidquestions@bphawks.org, as well as your healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Dimperio, Ph.D.
Acting Superintendent, Bethel Park School District