



BETHEL PARK

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

Monday, November 16, 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Positive Cases at Bethel Park High School, Independence Middle School, and Neil Armstrong Middle School

Bethel Park School District saw an uptick in COVID-19 cases over the weekend and unfortunately, more cases emerged today at Bethel Park High School, Independence Middle School, and Neil Armstrong Middle School.

- **The two new cases at the high school, the fourth and fifth in the past two weeks, will compel it to remain closed until at least Dec. 1, in accordance with the District's health and safety protocols.**
- **Today's cases at IMS and NAMS, which are unrelated, will force those schools to close until next Monday, Nov. 23.**
- George Washington Elementary school, which was closed today and will be closed again tomorrow, is still on track to reopen on Wednesday, Nov. 18.
- No other district schools are impacted at this time.

We have reached out to those who may have been in close contact with the students and professionals involved in these latest cases. 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.

With the holiday season upon us, experts are warning that positivity rates are very likely to increase. Today, Allegheny County was downgraded from the moderate phase to the substantial phase by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. That means that the county's positivity rate is greater than 10 percent for at least a seven-day period and could result in the closure of all area schools. Should we transition to remote learning on a full-time basis, the District will provide advanced notification so that families may plan accordingly. However, as the events of the past few days further demonstrate, the situation can change rapidly as the District receives new information. Families who haven't already done so are advised to make contingency plans now.



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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