



BETHEL PARK

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Positive Case at George Washington Elementary School

Late last night, a third George Washington Elementary School staff member in the past five days informed the District that they had tested positive for COVID-19. However, in accordance with our health and safety protocols, **George Washington Elementary School remains on track to reopen its doors to students in the hybrid learning track starting tomorrow, Wednesday, Nov. 18.**

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. On Monday, 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 most, if not 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.

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