



BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 13, 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Positive COVID-19 test reported at Independence Middle School

Earlier today, a student at Independence Middle School reported testing positive for COVID-19. The student was last in school on May 10.

Bethel Park School District's health and safety protocols mandate that the individual will remain isolated at home until his or her symptoms have abated and he or she has been cleared by a medical professional as being no longer contagious.

Anyone who is considered to have been in close contact with the individual 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.

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. 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 one of the three major COVID-19 vaccines being administered in the United States. Those vaccines are all demonstrating a remarkable potency – particularly when it comes to serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. However, none of them have a 100% efficacy rate. That is why all District staff and families should continue to follow the same health and safety protocols we have so successfully adopted throughout the balance of the school year.

It is imperative, perhaps now more than ever, that we 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 **ALWAYS** 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 simply cannot be lulled into a false sense of complacency when it comes to the coronavirus or our spread mitigation measures and risk relinquishing our hard-fought gains.

Sincerely,

James Walsh, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Bethel Park School District