



Good evening!

Happy Friday! I hope you were able to stay safe during this latest storm. The roads, parking lots and sidewalks were certainly treacherous this morning. A huge shout out to our maintenance and custodial crews that were able to get most of it cleaned up by late this afternoon! During these weather events, our crews work tirelessly and endlessly to try to make our grounds as safe as possible. I digress, but I just wanted to send a special thank you out to them, as well!

I'd like to provide an update for positive COVID cases since my last email on Monday. Since early Monday afternoon, we have received notification of 23 COVID cases in our schools. All of the new cases involve students. A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 1/31	*Since 1/31, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	7 (all students)	4
Middle School	5 (all students)	3
Bellefonte Elem.	2 (both students)	1
Benner Elem.	2 (both students)	1
Marion-Walker Elem.	4 (all students)	1
Pleasant Gap Elem.	3 (all students)	0

All parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to these 23 cases this week. There were a total of 18 students quarantined for the 23 new cases that we received notification for since Monday. Please note that some of these new student cases involve siblings.

We are continuing to see a decline in cases in our schools compared to the past few weeks. Also note that less than half of the students were in school while infectious, so that has helped with the number of needed quarantines, and potentially helped decrease the spread of the disease. We also know that sometimes students test positive with no symptoms or symptoms are sudden. That's completely understandable. We just appreciate any help parents can give us. Thank you for your support! We continue to urge parents to work with us and support all personal safety measures. For our schools, parents **must** keep their students home if they are sick or have any symptoms. They also should keep their students home if someone in the house is sick and awaiting test results or if the parents have any notion that their student may have been exposed to a positive case. As mentioned, all of this has helped tremendously.. Thank you!

As a reminder, parents can contact their child's principal(s) through email, if their children receive a positive test result on the weekends. The principals check their email regularly on weekends. They may not respond instantly, but they will get back to parents as soon as they can.

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter on Monday morning. I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area SD