



Good evening!

Happy Friday! I'd like to provide an update for positive COVID cases since Monday and to offer some related information and observations. Since Monday, we have received notification of 69 COVID cases in the district. Of the 69 new cases, 63 involve students and 6 involve staff members. Obviously, the positive case counts are surging in the district, as they are in the county and state. Through this week, I made some side notes about some of these cases, as parents reported:

- Some of these cases go back to last week because test results were so delayed. By the time, parents got results, isolation and quarantine periods already were over or nearly over. Home tests are difficult to find, and the results from other tests are very delayed in some instances.
- Several parents reported that the entire family tested positive in a short period of time. Some of these positive cases in our schools involve siblings and a few are all of the children in a family (these cases are all counted individually in the case counts).

A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 1/10	*Since 1/10, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	15 (14 students, 1 staff)	13
Middle School	24 (22 students, 2 staff)	16
Bellefonte Elem.	8 (7 students, 1 staff)	8
Benner Elem.	8 (7 students, 1 staff)	6
Marion-Walker Elem.	9 (8 students, 1 staff)	7
Pleasant Gap Elem.	5 (all students)	4

All, or nearly all, parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to these 69 cases this week. At the time of this email, there were a total of 152 students quarantined for the 69 new cases that we received notification for since Monday. Of the 152 total quarantines, 114 of the students

quarantined were middle school or high school students. Please note that some of the students quarantined are siblings of a student who tested positive.

We need to work together and get through these next few weeks, one day at a time. Thanks you so much for your support and understanding during this especially trying time. We are urging parents to work with us and support personal safety measures, such as:

- 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.
- Parents are encouraged to email their children's principals if their children test positive, as soon as possible. Principals also can and will provide answers to any questions parents may have. Please reach out to them.
- We want to encourage parents to notify their children's nurses regarding their vaccination status, if they have gotten a vaccination. This is simply to help cut down on the length of time it takes for contact tracing.

There is no school for students on Monday. It was already scheduled as a professional learning day for teachers. Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter on Tuesday morning. I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area SD