



Good evening!

Just a quick update for the positive covid case counts this week and two other brief updates. Since Monday, we received notification of 5 new positive covid cases in the district as described below.

COVID Case Count Updates

- We received notification that 2 students at the Middle School tested positive for covid. One student was in school while infectious, but the timelines had passed for contact tracing/quarantining. The other student was not in school while infectious, so no contact tracing was needed.
- We received notification that 2 students at Marion-Walker Elementary School tested positive for covid. One student was in school while infectious, but the timelines had passed for contact tracing/quarantining. The other student was not in school while infectious, so no contact tracing was needed.
- We received notification that a staff member from Pleasant Gap Elementary School tested positive for covid. The staff member was in school while infectious, but there were no close contacts identified. No quarantines needed.

Two Other Updates

Last week, the CDC changed the criteria and metrics for determining the covid spread and health care burden in communities. Yesterday, the CDC Centre County designation was lowered to a “medium” community level. More information about CDC Community Levels can be found on the CDC website.

Secondly, yesterday, superintendents received information from the PA Dept. of Education (PDE) that indicated the CDC no longer requires masks on school buses and vans. This means that PDE and the PA Department of Health agree that masks are no longer mandatory on our buses or vans. In short, masks are optional on buses and vans now, as well as in our schools.

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter or a brief email on Monday morning. As always, thank you so very much for your continued support, patience and understanding through these very challenging times. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area School District