



Happy Friday the 13th!

Another excellent week in the Bellefonte Area School District! As promised, I'll be providing covid information weekly in a brief email on Fridays. According to the CDC, Centre County is designated as having a "low" community rate again this week. This email includes a brief Covid case count update and an important update about our bus driver shortage.

Covid Case Counts

Since last Friday (5/6), we have received notifications of 10 new covid cases in the district. These new cases involve 8 High School students, 1 Pleasant Gap Elementary student and 1 Bellefonte Elementary staff member.

As a reminder, the rules for contact tracing/quarantine were changed for schools by the PA Department of Education (PDE) and the PA Department of Health (PA DoH) several weeks ago. We are still required to report new cases to the PDE/PA DoH, but we are no longer required to report the number of close contacts/quarantines to PDE/PA DoH. Fortunately, we received notice yesterday that we will not need to report any new cases to PDE/PA DoH after June 10th and over the summer months.

Bus Driver Shortage

We have been lucky to have enough drivers through our contracted bus companies this year. As we have gotten into the spring and closer to the end of the year, the shortage of routine drivers is becoming more prevalent. Over the past few weeks, our companies have had to "double up" on runs (a driver does an additional run after completing the regular run) which means there may have been slight delays in schedules. We are working diligently with the bus companies to do the best we can to get students safely to school and to home. We have been notifying parents of any delays in the morning pick up times or at the end of the day, return home times. With 17 days of school left this spring, with the additional field trips, athletic events and other events, it is possible that the driver shortage may cause additional schedule changes. If

so, we will notify parents as soon as we know. We ask for your patience and understanding as we get through these last few weeks. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know is interested in driving a bus even part time or for special events, Fullington Bus Company, located at the garage in Pleasant Gap, is eager to talk with any interested persons.

As mentioned, we are still required to report school cases to the PA DoH/PD until June 10th, so I will keep sending these covid updates for the remainder of the school year which is only about 3 ½ weeks (17 student days!). Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update on Friday next week. As always, thank you so very much for your continued support, patience and understanding! I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Tammie Burnaford

Superintendent

Bellefonte Area School District