



Happy Friday!

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 explanation of the change in the Department of Health reporting.

Covid Case Counts

Since last Friday (4/29), we have received notifications of 6 new covid cases in the district. These new cases involve 2 High School students, 1 Middle School student, 1 Benner Elementary student, and 2 Marion-Walker students.

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.

Health department moves to weekly updates

As of Thursday, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is no longer providing daily COVID-19 data updates, including cases, hospitalizations, deaths and vaccination numbers, publicly. Instead, the PA DoH now will provide weekly updates on Wednesdays. These are the Centre County and zip code numbers that I have been following closely and daily for at least 18 months. I believe this is a sign that we are truly moving out of the pandemic.

As mentioned, we are still required to report school cases to the PA DoH/PDE, so I will keep sending these covid updates for the remainder of the school year which is only about 4 ½ weeks (22 student days left!). 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