



**Bellefonte Area  
School District**

## **Bellefonte Area School District**

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**Mrs. Tammie L. Burnaford, Interim Superintendent**  
**Mr. Kenneth G. Bean, Jr., CMA, Director of Fiscal Affairs**

*Inspiring and Preparing Today's Learners to Embrace Tomorrow's Challenges*

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**Jan. 22, 2021**

**Dear Bellefonte Area School District families, staff and community:**

Happy Friday! I don't have a lot to share today. But, I am going to send a separate email this weekend (probably Sunday evening or Monday morning) that outlines how decisions are made regarding weather-related delays, early dismissals, and cancellations for our district. I will also share important information that explains the difference between remote learning days and flexible instructional days if school is cancelled. Our teachers have a Clerical Day on Monday, Jan. 25th, so there is no school for students this Monday. Like this week, I'll send my usual Covid update on Monday afternoon or evening.

### **BASD Case Count Update**

Since my letter and report on Monday, Jan. 18, we were notified of only 2 new, positive coronavirus cases in the district. Both of the new cases occurred at Bellefonte Elementary School, but they are unrelated to each other:

- We received notification regarding the first new case at Bellefonte Elementary yesterday. The case involved a staff member who was only in the building one day this week, and there were no close contacts identified for this case. However, because the staff member was in the building for just one day while he/she was infectious, this case does count in the PDE guidelines.
- Today, we received notification of the second new case, a student, at Bellefonte Elementary this morning. All of the parents of students who may have been close contacts were contacted earlier today. This case also counts in the PDE guidelines because the student was physically present in the school while infectious.

Just to refresh your memory, per the PA Department of Education (PDE) mandates, we must keep track of the number of active cases in each district school based on a 14 day rolling calendar. Cases count in the rolling 14 day calendar only if the student/staff member was physically present in the building while infectious. Active cases move in and out of the 14 day window based on the date of symptom onset or a positive case. The case counts and surrounding circumstances are discussed with the PA Department of Health (DoH) after each new case is identified, and we are given recommendations about possible closures, if needed. This is our current summary for each school in the district:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Total number of known, new cases since 1/18</b>	<b>*Number of cases that now “count” - students/staff that have been physically present in the building while infectious since 1/18</b>
High School	0	0
Middle School	0	0
Bellefonte Elem.	2	2
Benner Elem.	0	0
Marion-Walker Elem.	0	0
Pleasant Gap Elem.	0	0
BeLA	0	0

More information about the PDE mandates and the 14 day rolling calendar for instructional models can be found on the PDE website.

### **Other Reminders**

Parents should continue to notify building principals if their child(ren) tests positive for the coronavirus. The best way to get in touch with the building principal on the weekends or off times is via email, as our principals check email regularly even during the evening hours and on

weekends. The quick notifications really have helped our administrators to act quickly to begin contact tracing and to lessen the spread of the disease.

We've already received preliminary reports of potential poor weather conditions for Monday into Tuesday. I will be sending an email on Sunday or Monday that outlines basic information about weather related delays and cancellations, as well as information about remote learning days and flexible instructional days. If I have any weather information I can share with you at that time, I will. I would like to note, though, that my philosophy is to give parents as much notice as possible if there are pending delays or cancellations while trying to take a best guess about how poor weather conditions may (or may not) impact travel.

There is no school for students on Monday, Jan. 25th. The teachers and staff will be working, planning and preparing in their classrooms. Unless we have any major news, outbreaks or changes that need to be shared immediately, I will send an update letter with case counts and other information on Monday afternoon or evening since we don't have school on Monday.

Of course, the PDE mandates, the DoH directives, increases in new cases or unforeseen issues can happen rapidly, and we may need to change our plans at a moment's notice. If any of this latest information changes or our status must change, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Again, we encourage everyone in our school community to continue to follow the guidelines and practices that can help lessen the spread of the virus. This includes washing hands frequently, wearing masks, social distancing and practicing personal responsibility. Now, as much as ever, we need to keep up the great work in order to keep our students, staff and community safe and healthy.

And, and once again, thank you so very much for all you do, your support, and your willingness to partner with us to do what is best for students while keeping them and our staff as safe and healthy as possible! I hope you have an awesome weekend!

Sincerely,  
Tammie Burnaford  
Interim Superintendent  
Bellefonte Area School District