



Happy Friday!

Another great week in the Bellefonte Area School District! As promised, I'll be providing covid information weekly in a brief email on Fridays. Although the most recent, updated data was not available on the CDC website at the time of this email, Centre County is designated as having a "low" community rate. This email also includes important information about a current survey that is being conducted by the BASD.

Covid Case Counts

Since last Friday (4/1), we have received notifications of 7 new covid cases (4 students, 3 staff members) in the district. The 7 new cases include a staff member from the High School, 4 students from Pleasant Gap Elementary (PGE), and 2 staff members from Pleasant Gap Elementary. To further explain the cases from Pleasant Gap Elementary:

- 2 of the PGE students who tested positive are siblings, one had been quarantined due to the sibling testing positive.
- These PGE cases span the entire 7 days since last Friday, so timelines may have already passed for some.
- There seems to be no direct link between any of the students or staff members at the PGE school. The students are from 4 different classes, and 3 different grade levels. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely.

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) last week, as I shared in last week's email. 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. But, as a side note, other than the siblings who tested positive, there were no close contacts identified in any of the new cases this week.

District Branding Survey

The Bellefonte Area School District Board of Directors recently began working with John Jenson, a consultant who will oversee the process of helping our district define who we are. More information about Mr. Jenson is available on the Branding page of the District website. In addition, Mr. Jenson

presented a lot of information to the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on March 15, 2022. A CNET video link to that presentation can be found on the School Board page of the District website.

Briefly, in light of recent discussions throughout Bellefonte Area School District of the Red Raiders nickname and image, it may be the proper time to examine the identity of district schools. Getting our students ready for what happens after high school should always be our primary focus. Our district is committed to exploring the culture and climate needed to give our students the best post-high-school opportunities. A survey has been created with six questions designed to understand community feelings and opinions pertaining to this topic. This is not a vote, but rather a survey to help lead to a better understanding of who we are as a school district and community. This Branding survey link can be found here:

<https://www.basd.net/Page/15667>. Please share this link and information with anyone and everyone who may have an interest in sharing their thoughts about making our mark throughout our schools and community. Thank you in advance for your participation!

As a reminder, students do not have school on Thursday, April 14, Friday, April 15 or Monday, April 18. Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update on Thursday afternoon or evening 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