



Happy Twos Day Tuesday (2/22/22)!

Over the long weekend, we received notification of 5 new covid cases in the district. A detailed description of each new case is listed below. Please note that with the long weekend for students, many of the timelines for contact tracing/isolation/quarantine have already passed. This email also includes a reminder of the availability of covid testing in our schools as we move into the next phase of the coronavirus pandemic. First, the covid case count update from the weekend.

### **COVID Case Count Updates**

Over the weekend and early this morning, we received notifications of 5 new positive cases in the district as follows:

- On Friday, we received notification that a student at the High School tested positive for covid (this case wasn't included in the email on Friday). The student was in school while infectious earlier in the week. There were no students identified as close contacts, but the timelines for quarantines have also passed.
- Over the weekend, we received notification that a student at the Middle School tested positive for covid. The student was present in school while infectious, but there were no students identified as close contacts that needed to quarantine. The timelines for this case also have passed.
- Over the weekend, we received notification that two students from Bellefonte Elementary tested positive for covid. The students were in school while infectious. Contact tracing was completed, but there were no close contacts identified for these cases.
- This morning, Mrs. Krisch received a notification that a student from Marion-Walker Elementary School tested positive for covid. The student was in school while infectious. Mrs. Krisch was still working on the contact tracing at the time of this writing. She will notify parents today if their children have been identified as a close contact.

## **COVID Testing Program Update**

As I explained in prior emails, we were exploring a covid testing program as a service for our parents and staff and as part of a layered mitigation strategy. We now have tests available in all of our schools. Mrs. Krisch, our Pandemic Coordinator, sent information to parents last week. The testing program is completely voluntary for parents, and no tests will be given without parental consent. Parents can give consent electronically. Please contact your child's school nurse for more information..

The covid case counts continue to trend downward. But, we still need parents' help, as we transition to the next phase of covid and illnesses. We continue to ask parents to keep their students home if they have any symptoms of the cold, flu or covid. We will be sending students home who have symptoms of an illness (just as we did pre-pandemic). The availability of voluntary testing for parents who want their own children tested will support those parents who are seeking a test for their child(ren).

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter or a brief email on Friday, as usual. As always, thank you so very much for your continued support, patience and understanding through these very challenging times. I hope you have a terrific TwosDay and a great week ahead!

Tammie Burnaford  
Superintendent  
Bellefonte Area School District