



Good evening!

Happy Friday! I'd like to provide an update for positive COVID cases since my last email on Tuesday. Since Tuesday morning, we have received notification of 60 COVID cases in our schools. Like last week, please note:

- Many of these cases go back to last week or over the long weekend because test results were so delayed. By the time, parents got results, isolation and quarantine periods already were over or nearly over. Home tests are difficult to find, and the results from other tests are very delayed in some instances.
- Several parents reported that the entire family tested positive in a short period of time. Some of these positive cases in our schools involve siblings and a few are all of the children in a family (these cases are all counted individually in the case counts).

A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 1/18	*Since 1/18, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	19 (18 students, 1 staff)	16
Middle School	14 (11 students, 3 staff)	7
Bellefonte Elem.	6 (all students)	4
Benner Elem.	3 (all students)	2
Marion-Walker Elem.	14 (11 students, 3 staff)	4
Pleasant Gap Elem.	4 (all students)	2

All, or nearly all, parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to these 60 cases this week. At the time of this email, there were a total of 55 students quarantined for the 60 new cases that we received notification for since Tuesday. Please note that several of the students quarantined are siblings of a student who tested positive.

We need to work together and get through these next few weeks, one day at a time. We are urging parents to work with us and support all personal safety measures. For our schools, parents **MUST** keep their students home if they are sick or have any symptoms. They also should keep their students home if someone in the house is sick and awaiting test results or if the parents have any notion that their student may have been exposed to a positive case.

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter on Monday morning. I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend! Stay warm!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area SD