



Good evening!

Happy Friday! I'd like to provide an update for positive COVID cases since my last email on Monday. Since early Monday afternoon, we have received notification of 32 COVID cases in our schools. One of these cases involved a staff member that is not employed by us, but is employed by an outside, school support agency. That case is included in the case count summary. Like last week, please note:

- Some of these cases go back to last week 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.

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

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 1/24	*Since 1/24, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	15 (all students)	10
Middle School	5 (4 students, 1 staff)	5
Bellefonte Elem.	4 (all students)	4
Benner Elem.	3 (all students)	1
Marion-Walker Elem.	3 (all students)	3
Pleasant Gap Elem.	2 (1 student, 1 adult from an outside agency)	1

All, or nearly all, parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to these 32 cases this week. At the time of this email, there were a total of 14 students quarantined for the 32 new cases that we received notification for since Monday. Please note that some of the students quarantined are siblings of a student who tested positive.

We have seen a decline in cases this week compared to last week, but we need to continue to work together. We are urging parents to continue 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. All of this has helped tremendously, particularly this week. Thank you!

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter on Monday morning. I am also going to share some preliminary information about the upcoming testing program that will be optional for parents in Monday's email. I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area SD