



Good evening!

Happy Thanksgiving! This is just a quick update for positive covid cases since Monday. Since my email on Monday, we received confirmation of 16 new cases across the district. Of the 16 new cases, 15 are students and 1 is a staff member. Of the 15 students, 7 are siblings from just 2 families. A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

<b>Building</b>	<b>Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 11/22</b>	<b>*Since 11/22, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious</b>
High School	5 (all students)	5
Middle School	3 (2 students, 1 staff)	3
Bellefonte Elem.	2 (students)	2
Benner Elem.	0	0
Marion-Walker Elem.	5 (all students)	5
Pleasant Gap Elem.	1 (student)	0
BeLA	0	0

I also want to include information about the contact tracing progress for newly confirmed cases, and to try to give a best estimate for the total number of students quarantined in my updates each time. Parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to these 16 cases this week. At the time of this email, there were a total of 18 students quarantined for the 16 new cases that we received notification for since Monday.

Also, as a correction, the middle school received more information about a student from the middle school that tested positive last weekend. In my email on Monday morning, I reported that the student was not in school while infectious and no contact tracing was needed. We received clarifying information later on Monday, and the student was determined to be in school while infectious. With the new information and contact tracing several students were identified as close contacts. However, the parents of all of those students who were identified as close contacts were notified on Monday.

Reminders - There has been an uptick in cases in the district recently. Please send an email to your child's principal if your child tests positive for covid, over the break. And, students who are exhibiting symptoms of covid (or any illness) should stay home from school.

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter on Tuesday morning when we return to school.

When I count my blessings this Thanksgiving, I am reminded how honored and blessed I am to be part of such a wonderful school community. I am so very thankful and grateful! May this Thanksgiving bring good health, joy and warm memories to you and to your family!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford  
Superintendent  
Bellefonte Area SD