



Good morning!

I hope you and your family had a great weekend! We were notified of 5 new, positive covid cases this weekend. All 5 of these new cases involve middle school students, across all three grade levels. Four of the students were in school while infectious. One was already quarantined because another family member had tested positive. The four students who tested positive and were in school while infectious were wearing masks, so the number of student quarantines should be less, but we don't have that exact number yet. Dr. Garman and Dr. Eckenroth worked all day yesterday and late into the evening on the contact tracing. They are still working on that this morning and will contact parents of any students who are identified as close contacts. I'll share the number of students quarantined from these cases in Friday's update.

As I mentioned in my update email on Friday and the Centre Daily Times reported over the weekend, the number of positive cases in the 16823 zip code are surging, perhaps more than other areas in Centre County right now. The 16823 zip code does span our district and Bald Eagle, and both school districts have had an increase in cases over the past few weeks. We cannot know for sure where the cases are starting or where the virus was spread, but several parents report that someone in the family also tests positive, too. Last year, we could predict and slightly understand outbreaks in 16823 (ex: nursing homes, prisons) and our schools. This year is not the same at all, and our new case numbers continue to rise. Again, we are asking parents to please keep their students' home if they have symptoms of illness (the symptoms for COVID, and specifically for the Delta variant vary greatly now) or if they may have been exposed to a person who may test positive for COVID.

Thank you so much for your understanding, patience and support. We truly appreciate it! I hope you have a marvelous Monday and a great week ahead!

Sincerely,
Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent, Bellefonte Area SD