



Good evening!

Another great week in the BASD! I know I say it a lot, but our students are simply awesome!

There have been some questions around the new case counts that I share in each update. This year, again, we rely on parents to notify our building principals or nurses to notify us if their child tests positive for covid. Sometimes, test results are delayed a day or two which delays the notifications for us, too. This, in turn, delays contact tracing and quarantining. When I write and send my update emails to parents, the information is accurate based on the information I get from each school and for the time that I send it. It's possible that we will get a new confirmation a short time after I hit "send." As an example, this situation happened just this week. I hit send on Monday's email that indicated we had 0 notifications over the weekend which was true, and less than 30 minutes later a parent contacted us to say that they had received positive results for their child. To complicate this more, this student had been in school while infectious the week before, so contract tracing had to be completed for the previous week. Similar to last year, when situations like this occur, I add those late cases to my next email to parents/guardians. This case from Monday morning is included in today's chart. This is one reason why we don't keep a running chart or dashboard of new cases like other districts have tried. The charts may not be accurate for a particular day and are confusing due to the delays in reporting, confirming and contact tracing. What I try to do this year, as the same as last year, is to notify parents of the total number of new cases that have been confirmed since my last email or letter. I know this can be frustrating and confusing for parents/guardians, as well, and I just wanted to try to explain some of the complications we face.

Now for this week, since my letter on Monday, we received confirmation of 11 new cases across the district. A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 10/18	*Since 10/18, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	2 (both students)	1
Middle School	4 (3 students, 1 staff)	4
Bellefonte Elem.	3 (all students)	2
Benner Elem.	0	0
Marion-Walker Elem.	2 (1 student, 1 staff)	2
Pleasant Gap Elem.	0	0

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I will include information about the contact tracing progress for newly confirmed cases, and I will also 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 11 cases this week. At the time of this email, there were a total of 12 students quarantined for the 11 new cases that we received notification for since Monday.

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

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area SD