



Good afternoon!

It's hard to believe that one month of school has passed. There have been challenging times, but we are working together so well. More importantly, our students, as usual, have been simply awesome! Again, thank you for your support, patience and understanding as we try to navigate this pandemic together. As a positive covid case count update, we received confirmation of 13 new cases across the district since my letter on Monday. A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 9/27	*Since 9/27, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	6 (4 students, 2 staff)**	4
Middle School	2 (students)	2
Bellefonte Elem.	3 (students)	0
Benner Elem.	0	0
Marion-Walker Elem.	2 (students)	2
Pleasant Gap Elem.	0	0
BeLA	0	0

**The potential high school case (a student) that was already mentioned in Monday's letter was also confirmed early Monday morning. Contact tracing was completed for this case on Monday morning.

I'm also going to try to give a best estimate for the total number of students quarantined in my updates each time. I say "estimate" because sometimes we are notified about cases near the time I send my updates, and our principals and nurses may not have completed contact tracing and may not have identified all close contacts yet. I will note that, too, in my updates. For these 13 new cases, contact tracing has been completed by the building principals and nurses. Parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to these recent cases. There were a total of 9 students identified as close contacts and quarantined for all of the new positive covid cases across the district since Monday.

As I have mentioned, with the new PA DoH rules, students wearing masks has significantly decreased the number of required quarantines compared to last year. Parents keeping their students home when

they have symptoms or may have been a close contact to someone else in the family also has reduced the number of possible close contacts in school because the students weren't in school while infectious. This has helped tremendously again this year. Thank you so much for your support and help!

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