



Bethany Public School District

Colleen M. Murray, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear BCS Community,

As the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) learns more about COVID-19, they are making adjustments to how they measure and report the virus' activity by community. Each week, DPH is reporting town-level data for the number of new cases per 100,000 population in the following dataset: [COVID-19 Case Rate by Town](#). While the number of cases in the Town of Bethany, as indicated on the [COVID Alert Map](#), is of concern, Bethany Community School reports zero (0) positive cases, to date.

According to the revised [Addendum 4: Guidance for Decision-Making in Connecticut Schools During COVID-19](#), decisions on whether school districts operate in a full in-person model, a fully-remote model, or a hybrid model should be based on indicators of the spread and prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and on the physical and operational ability of school districts to implement critical mitigation strategies. As noted in Addendum 4, "the experience in our state since school reopening began indicates that transmission has been a rare event inside of school buildings even in communities with elevated transmission rates, likely due to the high level of planning and compliance with mitigation strategies designed to prevent transmission between individuals. This same level of planning and compliance is not necessarily in place in other settings outside of school buildings, and so engagement in general community activities requires more caution."

Since the start of the school year, both the leading indicator and the secondary indicators have supported a full in-person model at Bethany Community School. Although the Town of Bethany's case rate per 100,000 (10.4) during the 14-day period between October 4 - 17th falls just inside the "orange zone," our school data of zero (0) positive cases to date, supports our decision to remain in a full in-person model of instruction. This decision was made collaboratively with the support of DPH epidemiologists, and local health officials. We will continue to monitor local health data on a weekly basis, consult with our local health officials, and, in partnership, make decisions in the best interest of our students and their families.

We all need to do our part to remain safe and healthy. Please continue to be vigilant in following the health and safety guidance recommended by DPH. This includes the use of face coverings, social distancing, and hand hygiene. Please do not send your child to school when ill or when waiting for the results of a COVID test. Additionally, it would be greatly appreciated if any member of your family has tested positive or is being quarantined as a contact that you inform the school.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent