



## Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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Dear BCS Community,

Sounds like strong gusty winds, along with bitter cold winter temperatures, are here to stay for the next few days, with a threat of a snowstorm Monday into Tuesday. Please be sure your children are bundled up warm if they are waiting out at bus stops, or in the event that wind chill temperatures don't prevent us from going outside for recess or mask breaks.

This correspondence serves as an update to the current levels of COVID-19 in the Town of Bethany, and the Bethany Community School (BCS), as well as the instructional model decision for next week.

The Department of Health (DPH) continues to report town-level data for the number of new cases per 100,000 population and for the percent test positivity in the following dataset: [COVID-19 Case Rate by Town](#). BCS reports zero positive cases this past week, and the Town of Bethany reports 35 positive cases with a rate of 45.6 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of January 10th through January 23rd.

The District remains committed to providing in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible while mitigating health risks to students and staff. Based on the most recent COVID-19 metrics for Bethany, and in collaboration with our local health advisors at Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD), **Bethany Community School will remain in-person learning for the week of Monday, February 1st.**

### **Responsible Reporting**

**PLEASE** continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the school nurse, Cheryl Santore at [csantore@bethany-ed.org](mailto:csantore@bethany-ed.org), BCS: (203) 393-3350 x615 or cell (203) 494-8156, if a student/staff, **or a household family member**, tests positive for COVID-19 or if student/staff has been identified as a close contact requiring quarantining.

Our local health departments are closely monitoring the new UK COVID strain in our area and strongly recommend that everyone remain hypervigilant with mitigation strategies. The goal of having children attend school, in-person, is only safe when a community works together to control transmission and the spread of the virus. Therefore, your ongoing cooperation and responsible reporting is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Murray  
Superintendent