



## Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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March 26, 2021

Dear BCS Community,

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

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 one positive case this past week and the Town of Bethany reports 31 positive cases with a rate of 40.4 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of March 7th through March 20th. This recent data keeps Bethany in the Red Zone.

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), **BCS will remain in-person learning for the week of Monday, March 29th.**

### **Travel Advisory**

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), travel increases your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. The **CDC recommends that you do not travel at this time.** Delay travel and stay home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

As of March 19, 2021, Governor Lamont's Executive Order No.9S, Section 1, regarding travel is no longer in effect. Connecticut residents and travelers to Connecticut should follow the [CT Travel Advisory](#).

**The Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge, and Amity School Districts, along with the Orange Health Department and the Quinnipiac Valley Health District strongly recommend that students/employees self-quarantine for a period of 10 days after travel or present a negative COVID test prior to returning to school/work.** Any type of negative COVID-19 test (rapid or PCR) is acceptable in lieu of a 10-day quarantine. The test must be performed in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to returning to Connecticut or at any time following return to Connecticut.

In order to protect the health and safety of our staff and students, we ask that anyone who chooses to travel out of state take the responsible steps outlined above.

Please refer to the [CT Travel Advisory](#) and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for further information. Please direct all questions regarding travel to Principal Tom Reed-Swale at [treed-swale@bethany-ed.org](mailto:treed-swale@bethany-ed.org).

**Post-Spring Break**

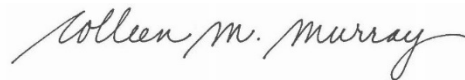
At this time, the Bethany Public School District plans to be in-person the week following spring break.

**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. In order to determine an individual's quarantine time and return to school/work date, we must ask questions regarding their exposure which requires your cooperation. Please do not send your child to school to be assessed by the nurse if they are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms. Please do not give your child fever-reducing medicine and then send them to school. By doing so, our chances of controlling transmission and preventing quarantines become significantly challenged. Thank you in advance.

Thank you to all the staff and families who are working collaboratively with the school to keep everyone safe. 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. Your ongoing cooperation and responsible reporting is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen M. Murray". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Colleen M. Murray  
Superintendent