



Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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March 19, 2021

Dear BCS Community,

Spring officially begins tomorrow supported by predictions for warmer weather. I hope you are able to find time to enjoy it.

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 zero positive cases this past week and the Town of Bethany reports 15 positive cases with a rate of 19.6 positive cases per 100,000 for the weeks of February 28th through March 13th. This recent data puts Bethany back 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 22nd.**

Responsible Reporting

Please continue to contact the school to report absences and contact the school nurse, Cheryl Santore at 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.

Travel Advisory

Please refer to the [CT Travel Advisory](#) and travel-related guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). While travel mandates and requirements are not currently in place, the State's website provides the following information:

- Prior to traveling outside of your local community, consider that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. CDC recommends against travel at this time. Travel remains a risk for spread of SARS-CoV-2, including new variants, between different areas of the country and the world.

- Travelers should review [CDC's travel guidance](#) when planning travel outside of their local community. Know your [travel risk](#). Do not travel if you are sick, are considered [infectious after testing positive for COVID-19](#), or [should be quarantined after exposure](#) to a person with COVID-19.

Quarantine

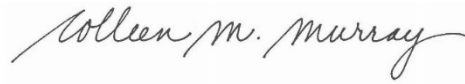
At this time, the Bethany Public School District, in consultation with QVHD and the other BOWA districts, continues to require a 14-day quarantine for students who are identified as close contacts of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 before they can return to school.

Post-Spring Break

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

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