



Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

44 Peck Road
Bethany, Connecticut 06524
cmurray@bethany-ed.org

Phone (203) 393-1170
Fax (203) 393-0239
www.bethany-ed.org

December 22, 2020

Dear BCS Community,

In days gone by, at this time of year, I would be singing, "Over the river and through the woods, to Grandmother's house we go," but in the midst of this pandemic, I find myself having to refer you to Governor Lamont's [Executive Order 9S](#) which encourages everyone to limit their interstate and international travel because of increasing rates of COVID-19. If travel is absolutely necessary over the holidays, please adhere to the revised [Travel Advisory Guidance](#) before returning to work/school in January.

Per the Governor's order, anyone traveling into Connecticut from a state or territory, other than New York, New Jersey, or Rhode Island, or from a country other than the United States will need to adhere to **one** of the following reentry requirements:

1. Staff/Students must quarantine/self-isolate for 10-days before returning to school.
2. Staff/Students can obtain any COVID-19 test, other than the antibody test, **within 72 hours prior to leaving the red (visiting) state**. The test results would need to show the individual tested **NEGATIVE** and a copy must be provided to the school before resuming in-person schooling.
3. Staff/Students can obtain any COVID-19 test, other than the antibody test, **after returning to Connecticut**. However, they would need to wait until the results come back **NEGATIVE** before returning to school. The test results would need to show the individual tested **NEGATIVE** and a copy must be provided to the school before resuming in-person schooling.

Our health department strongly recommends getting a PCR test due to accuracy and reliability.

Please contact the school nurse at jbobok@bethany-ed.org over the winter break or during the week of planned remote (January 4th to January 8th) with any health updates that include:

- staff/student exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms,
- staff/student tested positive,
- staff/student exposed to someone who tested positive, or
- staff/student traveled to a state other than NY, NJ, or RI, or out of the country.


Please remember to follow the mitigating and prevention strategies below as we progress into the winter months and the New Year:

- Avoid hosting and/or attending large gatherings.
- Always practice social distancing when outside the home/in public.
- Use a face mask/covering when outside the home/in public.
- Frequently wash your mask to ensure it remains effective and is reusable.
- If a mask is not available, the school has masks available.
- Encourage frequent washing of hands and personal hygiene.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well and seek medical care as necessary.

Out of an abundance of caution, we kindly request that if a family member that lives in your home is sick and is awaiting COVID-19 test results, that you (staff/student) please stay home. We request that students/staff stay home until the results have been processed. By doing this, we have a better chance of lessening the potential for spreading the virus at school and therefore, keep our school community healthy.

We truly appreciate your ongoing help and cooperation and wish you a very happy and healthy holiday.

My very best,

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

Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent