



## Bethany Public School District

Colleen Murray, Superintendent

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December 4, 2020

Dear BCS Community,

I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday break. The feedback provided by many of you regarding the planned hybrid learning days prior to Thanksgiving was much appreciated. The District remains committed to providing in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible based on staffing and health-related factors. We believe the remote learning week following Thanksgiving break was necessary and contributed significantly in mitigating the spread of the virus in the community. Next week, BCS administration will send out a survey to families to obtain feedback related to your full remote learning experiences this past week. The information you provide will help us to better understand your child's experience and ultimately help to improve our remote instruction model.

**Per a discussion today with the Quinnipiac Valley Health Department (QVHD), BCS will return to full (5 days a week) in-person learning, as planned, on Monday, December 7th.**

When we return on December 7th, students will bring their Chromebook/laptops to and from school each day in the event we need to transition to hybrid or full remote learning, at any point in time. **Chargers will remain at home, therefore Chromebooks must be charged at home each night.**

The continued partnership between the school system, QVHD, and families is a critical aspect of our success. The primary goal this year is to keep our students and staff in school as long and as safely, as possible. However, we can't accomplish this without your help and ongoing cooperation. We are still in the midst of a pandemic and therefore, we kindly ask your help in continuing to follow the below procedures and mitigating strategies:

- **When to keep your child home:** [Symptom Checklist](#)
- **Contact your school nurse:** **It is very important to contact the school nurse if your child is having key COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive, or was exposed to someone who has tested positive.**
- **Mitigating Strategies:** Please remember the following mitigating and prevention strategies will help in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy as we progress into the winter months.
  - 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.
  - **Wash face mask/coverings DAILY** to ensure it remains effective and is reusable.
  - If your child does not have a mask, the school has masks available.
  - Encourage frequent washing of hands and personal hygiene.
  - Avoid traveling to states under the [CT Advisory Travel Guidance](#).
  - Keep your child home if they are not feeling well and seek medical care as necessary.

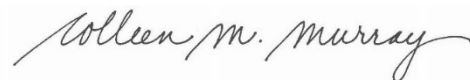
- Travel guidelines reminder: If your child visits a state that is in the red ([click here](#)) they MUST adhere to **one** of the following reentry requirements as per the Governor's order:
  1. Your child must quarantine/self-isolate for **14-days** before returning to school.
  2. Your child can obtain a **RT-PCR COVID-19 TEST** 72-hours prior to leaving the red (visiting) state. The test results need to show your child had a **NEGATIVE PCR TEST** and a copy must be provided to the school before resuming in-person schooling.
  3. Your child can obtain a **RT-PCR COVID-19 TEST** after returning to Connecticut. However, they need to wait until the results come back **NEGATIVE** before returning to school. The test results need to show your child had a **NEGATIVE PCR TEST** and a copy must be provided to the school before resuming in-person schooling.

**Please note that a rapid test (Antigen Test) such as the one offered at some facilities/urgent care (e.g. DOCS) are not accurate and will NOT be accepted. ONLY RT-PCR COVID-19 TEST results will be accepted.**

We strongly believe that children learn best when they are in school. The goal of having children attend school in person is only safe when a community is working together to lower the transmission and spread of the virus. Therefore, your ongoing cooperation is greatly needed during these tough times.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our students, teachers, and staff safe.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen M. Murray".

Colleen M. Murray  
Superintendent