



BUNKER HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Bulldog...It's more than our mascot; it's our character"

Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal

Gregory Muscelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal

January 24, 2021

Dear Bulldog Families and Staff,

Unfortunately, it appears that I am writing you a letter every week or every couple of days regarding another instance where a person associated with the BHMS community renders a positive COVID-19 test. I found out yesterday (January 23, 2021) that another individual tested positive for COVID-19. That individual has had no exposure to the BHMS Community, however. That person has not been in the building since the second week of January and only recently became symptomatic.

In addition to the positive test, you should know that the state recently sent correspondence about "alternate diagnosis" for children. Specifically, the most important change to note in the attachment is the bold type. ***"Any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable"***

The last part of the above paragraph is most important to note because students with chronic conditions like asthma could have symptoms compatible to COVID-19 which would require them to be tested for COVID-19 or complete the 10-day isolation period if they become symptomatic.

You can access that correspondence here: ["Alternate Diagnosis" Letter](#)

As always, please consult the past correspondence below. These links can be very helpful in understanding our protocols and how we are working to keep everyone safe.

Please consult the links to past letters to you that provide specific details regarding courses of action we take in the in person and remote settings and how our decisions are affected by the trajectory of the pandemic. Please see below:

[September 24, 2020](#)...Reference of our first COVID-19 Positive Case and the contact tracing and cleaning protocols we do for each case when the individual was in the building.

[November 24, 2020](#)...Explanation of the difference between "symptomatic" and "presumptive positive".

[December 10, 2020](#)...Reminder to keep Mrs. Keane informed (even in the remote environment) of COVID-19 Positive Cases.

[All Bunker Hill Correspondence to Families](#)...Location of all past and current newsletters and written correspondence during the 20-21 school year from Mr. D'Ostilio to families. This includes all letters of affirmed positive COVID-19 Cases surrounding Bunker Hill Middle School

[COVID Act Now – Gloucester County, NJ](#)...Tracks (live) the numbers of COVID-19 cases and positivity ratings in Gloucester County. It also makes recommendations.

[New Jersey Department of Health Weekly Report](#)...This report is current based on the previous weeks' numbers. This is always a week behind, but this report updates every Thursday.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Hub](#)...This gives you locations of all testing sites per county and provides other links in how to schedule a vaccine appointment.

[January 24, 2020 Letter to Families Regarding COVID Testing of School Age Children and "Alternative Diagnosis"](#)...children who have COVID-like symptoms as a result of a cold, allergies, asthma, etc. will still be asked to either quarantine or obtain a negative COVID test prior to returning to school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike D'Ostilio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being the most prominent.

Mike D'Ostilio