

## 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 28, 2021

Dear Bulldog Families and Staff,

This evening around 8pm, we received notification that an individual at Bunker Hill tested positive for COVID-19. Since that time, many staff members have been working feverishly to ensure all staff and families of children who may have been direct contacts were notified and advised to quarantine and being working/learning remotely. This took us to the later hours of the evening. I very much appreciate the understanding of the members of the Bunker Hill community that received a myriad of phone calls and emails from us at a late hour.

Now that those considered direct contacts are notified, I have the opportunity to inform the entire BHMS community. In addition to the links below, I'd like to reiterate some points.

First, a direct contact is someone who potentially has a direct exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Direct contacts need to quarantine for 14 days. This is to both minimize the spread of the virus and allow the contacts to monitor their symptoms. If you or your child was not contacted directly by us, you are not considered a direct contact. I do ask that you families check voice messages or texts as we had to leave messages for some.

Second, we will work with our custodial crew to ensure any areas of exposure are properly sanitized.

Lastly, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school to speak to me or our nurse, Mrs. Keane.

Please continue to consult the links below regarding some our procedures and guidance. These links can be very helpful in understanding our protocols and how we are working to keep everyone safe.

I appreciate everyone's patience as we navigate this positive case at Bunker Hill. We will continue to correspond with staff and families whose children are considered direct contacts.

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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:

<u>September 24, 2020</u>...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".

<u>December 10, 2020</u>...Reminder to keep Mrs. Keane informed (even in the remote environment) of COVID-19 Positive Cases.

<u>All Bunker Hill Correspondence to Families</u>...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

<u>COVID Act Now – Gloucester County, NJ</u>...Tracks (live) the numbers of COVID-19 cases and positivity ratings in Gloucester County. It also makes recommendations.

<u>New Jersey Department of Health Weekly Report</u>...This report is current based on the previous weeks' numbers. This is always a week behind, but this report updates every Thursday.

<u>COVID-19 Vaccination Hub</u>...This gives you locations of all testing sites per county and provides other links in how to schedule a vaccine appointment.

<u>January 24, 2020 Letter to Families Regarding COVID Testing of School Age Children and "Alternative Diagnosis"</u>...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,

Mike D'Ostilio

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