



# 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*

October 5, 2020

Dear Bulldog Families and Staff:

I apologize for sending this letter on a Sunday. However, this letter is to inform you that a staff member at Bunker Hill Middle School has tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As is the process, the school is coordinating closely with public health officials and following CDC, state, and local health department guidance in order to ensure the health and safety of our community. We are unable to provide any information about the individual who has tested positive because that would violate the person's right to privacy about their health.

Bunker Hill and district officials were informed of the positive test around 1pm today. While the individual did not attend school on Friday, the positive test notification today necessitates that BHMS act swiftly to ensure the safety of students and staff. Due to the nature of the situation, we are unable to ascertain the extent of the contact tracing at this juncture. Therefore, having time to do the proper contact tracing is essential.

In consultation with district health officials and members of the administrative team, it is prudent that we have the school go full remote Monday and Tuesday for Cohort A. That means all staff (except for essential personnel) and students will work remotely tomorrow. We will work synchronously as similar to the first two weeks of school, where students will attend live virtual classes based on the periods they are assigned. To recap, all students, regardless of their cohort (A, B, C, or Remote) should plan to attend periods 1-4 on Monday and periods 5-8 on Tuesday. Here is the schedule below. Students will log in at the specified time. I will also be sending separate correspondence regarding happenings this week such as the scheduled STAR assessment and Week of Respect Activities.

Monday 10/5/20	Tuesday 10/6/20
Period 1...8:13-9:13 am	Period 5...8:13-9:13 am
Period 2...9:16-10:16am	Period 6...9:16-10:16 am
Period 3...10:19-11:19 am	Period 7...10:19-11:19 am
Period 4...11:22 am-12:22 pm	Period 8...11:22-12:22 PM

What we know at this moment is that we were notified of our first positive case on September 23, 2020 (which I communicated to you). On Thursday morning October 2, 2020, we were notified that a staff member became symptomatic. We immediately sent that staff member home. On Thursday, that staff member had no contact with any students. Nevertheless, since it was "presumptive" at the time, we closed down the room for 24 hours. 24 hours later, we thoroughly disinfected the room and resumed normal activities in the room.

Similar to last time, we have cleaned and disinfected all areas of the school, including the exposed areas. As you know, the school is also taking precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs on a daily basis.

What is different from last time, is that we are unsure if the exposure is related to the first case or if it is a new case and our uncertainty as to how many individuals were in close contact to the staff member for prolonged period of time.

Any students, teachers, or other members of the school community who are considered close contacts of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 have already or will be contacted separately by tomorrow. As before, **If you are not contacted with additional information, you and/or your child(ren) are not required or advised to do anything additional beyond the health and safety measures you are already taking.**

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

The status of this situation is fluid, and we are monitoring it closely. If we learn of any additional steps from the health department, we will let you know immediately. We will let families and staff know on or before Wednesday 10/7 what our status is for Thursday 10/8.

As always, we appreciate the support and cooperation of the BHMS community. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact the school at 856-881-7007

Sincerely,



Mike D'Ostilio  
Principal  
BHMS